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Union home minister **Amit Shah** calls Ladakh 'living land of dharma', **meets Leh Apex Body reps** Sonam Wangchuk and Tsering Dorje Lakrook, says **'everything will be all right'**, P 5

A psychologist charged in the trial over **Diego Maradona's death** tells Argentine court that the **soccer great had bipolar disorder and was a narcissist**, and required zero-alcohol treatment plan

Oscar statuette belonging to Pavel Talankin, who won best docu for 'Mr Nobody Against Putin', **goes missing** after he was forced to check it on flight, P 12

Tech billionaire **Elon Musk spars with lawyers for a third day at his California trial against OpenAI**, struggling to explain why his own for-profit AI empire differs from the one he is trying to take down, P 12

K'taka orders twin probes into wall collapse

Karnataka govt has constituted two panels to investigate the collapse of a compound wall at the govt-run Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital following heavy rain that left seven people dead. Both panels have been asked to submit reports within a week. The probes will look into structural lacunae, verify when the wall was built, and factors that may have led to the collapse. P 2

Probe: Bird flu, not heatstroke, led to death of peacocks

Death of 44 peacocks in Tumakuru between April 16 and 24 was caused by H5N1 strain of avian influenza, and not heatstroke as initially suggested. Samples collected from the carcasses confirmed the presence of H5N1 virus, according to forest officials. The district administration has sounded a high alert in 33 villages within a 10km radius. P 4

A **TOI-CENABH** poll suggests India's digital stress runs deeper than just high screen time. **Dependence and loss of control are the bigger warning signs**, especially among youth | P 14

Govt tweaks rule, allows online OCI card applications

Home ministry has notified an amendment to Citizenship Act allowing online application for OCI cards. The digital application will be for both inclusion and renunciation. The amended rule also provides for inclusion of minors as OCI but "the minor child cannot at any time hold passport of any other country while also holding Indian passport". TNN

Haryana officer sacked for ₹593cr bank fraud

Haryana State Agriculture and Marketing Board has sacked Rajesh Sangwan, its controller of finance and accounts, after he was indicted for alleged involvement in the Rs 593 crore bank fraud involving state govt funds. Sangwan cannot apply for a govt job anywhere. TNN

Prada to train 1st batch of Kolhapuri artisans

The first batch of 15 artisans from Belagavi will begin training at Karnataka Institute of Leather Technology and Fashion in July under Prada-Lidkar collaboration, marking the start of a three-year programme to skill 90 artisans in the state, **reports Pearl DSouza**. P 4

B'luru hotels eye 10% price hike as commercial LPG costs surge

Up By ₹993, 19kg Cylinder To Now Cost ₹3,153 In City

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Bengaluru: Eating out is set to become costlier, with the Union ministry of petroleum and natural gas raising commercial LPG prices by a steep Rs 993 from Friday. A 19 kg commercial cylinder will now cost Rs 3,153 in Bengaluru.

Speaking to **TOI**, Bengaluru Hoteliers' Association president P C Rao said restaurant owners were left with no option but to increase prices of items on the menu by 10%.

Hoteliers noted that commercial LPG prices were increased thrice in the last 60 days, with the total hike amounting to Rs 1,388. Restaurant owners in the city voiced their concern, saying a combination of factors is creating strong headwinds for the hospitality sector, putting its future in jeopardy.

According to National Restaurant Association of India, commercial LPG accounts for about 10% of food cost at restaurants. This could rise to 12-15%, following the latest price hike. NRAI president Sagar Daryani told **TOI**: "The exact impact will depend on the extent to which prices stabilise over the next few weeks."

▶ Shift to induction stoves, P 2

FOODIES TO FEEL THE PINCH

Revised prices of commercial LPG:

5kg refill ₹872 (up by ₹241)	47.5kg industrial cylinder: ₹7,878.5 (up by 2,477.5)
19kg commercial cylinder: ₹3,153 (up by ₹993)	
35kg industrial cylinder: ₹5,809 (up by ₹1,825.5)	

"Prices went up by 10% a month ago. Now, another 50% more. So that's a 60% jump from the base in March. Such high inflation on fuel cost will lead to increase in food cost and restaurants will be pushed to pass this on to the end consumers — **Sagar Daryani** | PRESIDENT, NAT'L RESTAURANT ASSN OF INDIA

Domestic LPG, fuel prices remain unchanged: Oil cos

Oil-marketing companies Friday said they have kept prices of domestic LPG, petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel for domestic flights unchanged. **Companies have been incurring under-recoveries of Rs 20 per litre on petrol and Rs 100 per litre on diesel.** They claimed rates "of 80% of products are unchanged".

The near-50% hike in commercial LPG rates is the highest single-day hike yet. OMCs have increased ATF rates for international airlines by 5%. Airlines said this raised costs by 60%, creating unviable operating conditions. TNN

K'taka panel proposes fee cut to revive core engg courses

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Bengaluru: An expert panel on engineering education reforms in Karnataka has proposed differential fee structures across programmes, with lower fees for core disciplines such as mechanical, civil, electrical and electronics engineering (EEE), to revive interest in them.

The new structure proposes Rs 50,000 of annual fee for mechanical engineering, Rs 60,000 for civil, Rs 40,000 for electronics and communication engineering (EEE/ECE), and Rs 70,000 for aerospace. In contrast, a govt quota seat for these disciplines at a private college currently costs between Rs 87,000 and Rs 97,000 annually.

It is still not clear, though, when this new fee structure will come into effect, if accepted by the state govt.

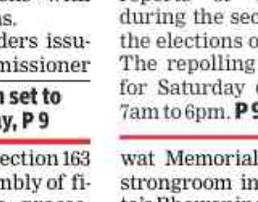
The committee, led by Prof S Sadagopan, has recommended fee subsidies to encourage students to opt for core disciplines vital to industry and infrastructure. The proposal aims to make these programmes more affordable than popular streams such as computer science (CS) and information technology (IT).

Beyond fee cuts, the committee has also suggested attractive financial support to boost enrolment. This includes industry-backed merit scholarships for the top 20% of students in these branches, ranging from Rs 75,000 to Rs 1.25 lakh annually. To further strengthen industry linkages, the report proposes guaranteed internships with stipends of Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 per month.

▶ Lack of interest , P 3

ONLY 17% FIND JOBS, SAYS REPORT

- Employability: Report points out only **17% of students find jobs**
- **Computer science** is oversaturated
- Unregulated IT seat surge in pvt colleges **triggers faculty exodus**
- Collapse of **tier 2/3 colleges**
- **Talent paucity** in core disciplines



Along with proposals for revised fee structure, the panel also suggests a **hub-and-spoke model**, with 15 hub institutions designated for world-class lab upgrades, and another 150 spoke colleges earmarked that will be able to send their students to the hubs for 4-6 weeks annually

Hit by 50% rise in 5 mths, auto drivers seek fare increase, bailout

Bengaluru: There's more shock in store for citizens, with the price of auto LPG increasing by 50% in under five months. Autorickshaw Drivers' Union has sought **upward revision in fares and monetary support** from Union and state govts.

On Friday, the price of auto LPG was revised by Rs 6 a litre — it has gone up from Rs 64 in Dec 2025 to Rs 95 now. Drivers said the steep hike is eating into their daily earnings, making it difficult to sustain livelihoods.

CN Sreenivas, president of Autorickshaw Drivers' Union, said drivers cannot afford another LPG price hike at this juncture. "Both central and state govts should give us a bailout package. We have faced supply shortages. Frequent hikes are making it near impossible to run business," he said. TNN

War is over, says Trump admin in bid to sidestep US Congress

Tehran Delivers New Proposal For Talks Via Pak

Iran has delivered a new proposal to the US amid stalled talks aimed at turning a fragile ceasefire into a lasting peace. Iran's state media said Tehran relayed its latest position via Pakistan, which mediated the first round of direct negotiations last month.

The proposal, news of which immediately led to a fall in oil prices, came as the Trump administration said the war has been "terminated" because of the April ceasefire, an interpretation that would allow the White House to avoid the need to seek congressional approval. Even so, Trump said the naval blockade would continue, and Iran maintained transit curbs would stay in the Strait of Hormuz.

Ships and cargo containers stuck in the Strait of Hormuz

IRNA said the text of Iran's new proposal was handed over to Pakistan Thursday evening; it didn't elaborate on what it entailed on key issues such as Hormuz or Iran's nuclear activities. Trump said Thursday the blockade of ports is depriving Iran of oil revenue, and claimed it would force Tehran back to the negotiating table.

▶ Economic battle, P 12

Govt calls it a 'war', invokes force majeure

West Asia conflict should be treated as a "war" to invoke 'force majeure' clause in public contracts which have been impacted, the finance ministry has said. It has allowed govt entities to extend contractual timelines by 2-4 months, without penalty, in cases where supply chain disruptions derailed contracts. P 5

Khera vs Sarma a political battle, says SC, gives bail to Cong neta

New Delhi: Citing the verbal duel between Congress's Pawan Khera and BJP's Himanta Biswa Sarma in the surcharged build-up to the recent polls, SC said the allegations against the Assam CM's wife and counter-allegations made by her appear to be politically motivated. The court granted anticipatory bail to the Congress spokesperson, saying it was not a situation warranting custodial interrogation, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary**.

SC held that the right to personal liberty is a cherished fundamental right, and any deprivation thereof must be justified on a higher threshold, particularly where the surrounding circumstances may indicate the presence of political overtones.

▶ Political rivalry, P 8

Lockdown in EVM strongroom areas after Trinamool-BJP clashes

TNN & Agencies

Kolkata: Police locked down neighbourhoods within a 200-metre radius of all seven designated EVM strongrooms in the city Friday after Trinamool Congress's allegations of vote tampering triggered overnight confrontations with BJP at two locations.

Prohibitory orders issued by police commissioner Ajay Nand under Section 163 of BNSS bars assembly of five or more people, processions and demonstrations anywhere near the strongrooms. The restrictions will remain in effect until the end of vote-counting on May 4.

CM Mamata Banerjee's three-hour vigil at the Sakhawat Memorial High School strongroom in south Kolkata's Bhowanipore late Thursday had drawn hordes of BJP protesters to Lord Sinha Road, prompting security personnel to forcibly remove them around midnight.

▶ Special SC bench set to hear TMC plea today, P 9

Repolling at 15 booths in 2 seats

EC Friday ordered repolling in 15 booths across two assembly constituencies — Magrahat West and Diamond Harbour — in South 24 Parganas following reports of irregularities during the second phase of the elections on Wednesday. The repolling is scheduled for Saturday (May 2) from 7am to 6pm. P 9

Nvidia mcap tops combined value of listed cos in India

US-based chip giant Nvidia now has a market cap more than the total market cap of all the companies listed in India. Compared to the company's valuation of $4.91 trillion during opening trades on Friday, India's was at $4.88 trillion when the local markets closed Thursday, Bloomberg data showed, **reports Dhananjay Roy**.

Demand for AI chips has more than doubled Nvidia's mcap from about $2 trillion exactly two years ago. In contrast, the slide in the Indian market has left its market cap almost unchanged on a point-to-point basis. The combined mcap of Indian companies had spiked to an all-time high at $5.9 trillion by end-Sept 2024, around the time the sensex topped 86K-mark for the first time. P 11

NOT ALONE, NOT EVEN IN DEATH

Among the 9 bodies recovered after a cruise boat carrying 43 capsized at Bargi Dam on the Narmada in MP were Marina Massey, 39, and her son Trishaan, tourists from Delhi. As the vessel trapped them, she appears to have pulled the boy into her life jacket to keep him afloat. Her husband & daughter survived. Eight of the dead are women, one a child; six remain missing. Among the survivors is a 70-year-old who was trapped for 3 hours | P 8

Rains likely to keep May heat in check: IMD

New Delhi: Many parts of the country may not be hotter than usual this month due to 'above normal' rainfall but certain states, specifically those along foothills of the Himalayas such as southern parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, along with eastern coast, and some parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat, are likely to face 'above normal' heatwave days (additional 3 to 8 days), according to the IMD's forecast for May released on Friday.

Met department at the same time predicted warmer nights (above normal minimum temperatures) across many parts of the country — a phenomenon which, the IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said, is linked to climate change. TNN

▶ Max temperature, P 5

Cong accuses Mann of being drunk as AAP wins trust vote amid bedlam

Navjeevan Gopal & Vibhor Mohan

Chandigarh: Punjab assembly's special session on May Day descended into bedlam after Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira accused CM Bhagwant Mann of coming drunk to the House, triggering heated exchanges between treasury & opposition benches.

While Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan turned down a Congress request for "immediate alcometer and dope test on the CM and all MLAs during the session" by PGI-Chandigarh doctors, BJP and SAD echoed the allegations against Mann and demanded his resignation for lowering the dignity of the House and insulting the people's mandate. Following the stormy scenes, AAP govt won a confidence motion moved by the CM, who later said he would take a copy of the motion when he meets President Murmu on May 5 and demand recall of the seven RS MPs — six from Punjab — who recently defected to BJP.

As Mann was leaving the House, Cong's S S Khaira alleged that the CM was drunk. Mann turned back and a heated exchange followed

▶ Serious allegations, P 5

GBA township may yield over ₹15k-cr for govt

Bengaluru: The proposed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) suburban township — earlier called Bidadi satellite township — is projected to generate a surplus of Rs 15,429 crore for the govt upon completion, with the project timeline estimated at three years, **reports Sandeep Moudgal**.

Documents accessed by **TOI** indicate the total project cost is pegged at Rs 18,133 crore, including interest payment to banks and NBFCs.

The govt expects overall revenue of Rs 33,562 crore from the sale of developed land and other sources.

Saleable land is expected to be priced at around Rs 2,200 per sqft for industrial use and Rs 2,300 per sqft for commercial use.

▶ To float int'l tenders, P 4

India storm into Thomas Cup SF, assured of medal

Former champions India outplayed higher-ranked Chinese Taipei to storm into the semifinals and assure themselves of a medal in the Thomas & Uber Cup 2026 in Horsens, Denmark, on Friday. India beat Taipei 3-0 in the men's quarterfinals and will now face the winner of the match between Japan and France for a spot in the final, regarded as the World Men's Team Championships.

Lakshya Sen saved two match points to beat world No. 6 Chou Tien Chen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty added a gritty doubles win, before Ayush Shetty delivered the final blow as India registered a commanding 3-0 victory over Chinese Taipei to storm into the semifinals. P 14

No paper, no queues: Digi property registration pilot starts in C'nagar

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Bengaluru: In a definitive shift towards digital governance, the Karnataka govt on Thursday launched its first paperless property registration system under the upgraded Kaveri 2.0 portal, beginning with a pilot in Chamarajanagar district.

The initiative, announced by chief minister Siddaramaiah in the budget, is set for statewide rollout by early June after assessment of the pilot phase.

A govt order issued on April 28 mandated implementation of a fully digital registration process across all sub-registrar offices in the district. The system removes the need for physical document submission and manual signatures, replacing them with end-to-end online processing, secure authentication and automated workflows.

Mullai Muhilan MP, inspector general of registration and commissioner of stamps, said the pilot marks a significant step in eliminating paperwork from property transactions. "We'll come to know whether the new initiative has any issues. We'll fix the issues, if any, before June rollout," he said.

▶ Staff trained, P 2

HOW ONLINE REGISTRATION WORKS

- Upload sale deed, gift deed or property agreements on **Kaveri 2.0 portal**
- Property details will be **auto-fetched from govt database** & sub-registrar verifies document online
- **Pay registration fee and stamp duty online**; parties authenticate using Aadhaar e-sign or DSC
- Digitally signed documents are submitted for registration and **no physical documents are required**
- Verification done as per Registration Act. Photos and **fingerprints are captured digitally**
- Registration process completed with digital signature. **Receipt and property documents are stored online**

'Over the moon' about India, says Tim Cook

Apple CEO **Tim Cook** says he is "over the moon excited" about India, characterising the country's market as a "huge opportunity" for the company.

Cook's remarks came to a question about his outlook on the Indian market.

He also acknowledged that the tech giant still has a "modest share" in India despite doing "extremely well" in the country for quite some time.

Tim Cook also discussed India's rising middle class, the potential it has and said since most customers across all our product lines are new to the brand, it's a perfect environment for us to grow. P 11

Childbirth costs 16 times more in private hospitals, says report

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New Delhi: Childbirth in private hospitals costs nearly 16 times more than in govt facilities, with a growing shift towards private care driving up out-of-pocket spending, according to the latest National Sample Survey Office (NSO) health report.

The survey shows that the average out-of-pocket expenditure per childbirth during the last 365-day period is Rs 37,630 in private hospitals (including govt-empanelled facilities), compared to Rs 2,299 in govt hospitals, highlighting a sharp affordability gap.

The gap remains significant even when typical spending is considered. The median expenditure per childbirth stands at Rs 32,000 in private hospitals versus Rs 801 in govt facilities, underscoring the financial burden on households opting for private care. The survey also points to a gradual shift towards private care, with the share of childbirths in private hospitals rising from 21.3% to 28.8% in rural areas and from 47.8% to 50.8% in urban areas, while the share of govt facilities has edged down over the same period.

Govt facilities still account for majority of deliveries overall, especially in rural areas, while private hospitals play a larger role in urban India

"Despite higher costs, many people prefer private hospitals due to better access, round-the-clock services and perceived quality. With changing rural-urban boundaries and increased presence of private providers, reliance on private care has grown," said Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, senior physician and public health specialist.

Institutional deliveries, meanwhile, have become the norm, accounting for 96.2% of all births.

▶ Govt facilities, P 5

Bangalore Times

'I've learnt to read people better today'

Delhi HC rejects trademark plea, asks Jigra to add disclaimer

MY CINEMA MY WEEKEND

P2

Buzzstop
KARAN JOHAR TO MAKE HIS MET GALA DEBUT

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Own Your First Apple Product Today
Rush to Croma Store | croma.com | TATA NEU | Tribe by Croma

BEYOND BOREDOM

How Communities Are Reimagining Summer For Children

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MORE THAN JUST A RIDE: Summer camps keep children physically active and help them build social skills

Most of us treasure memories of summer holidays spent at our grandparents' homes, days filled with warmth, freedom, and strong family connections.

Times have changed. Today, for most working parents, especially those with single children, summer holidays are accompanied by a different concern — how to keep their children engaged, active and socially connected. Left alone, children gravitate towards screens and gadgets even as they complain of being lonely and bored. This school-free period has become a massive challenge for urban families.

Increasingly, communities are stepping in to fill these gaps. Across Bengaluru, summer camps, many organised within apartment complexes, are spaces where children connect, collaborate and grow together. These camps, some specialised in sports, are quietly reshaping who plays, what they play, and what families expect from them.

Towards The Goal Of Holistic Development

When Madhuri Lakshman, an architect residing in south Bengaluru, was looking for a summer camp for her two sons, aged seven and four, she didn't want the run-of-the-mill sporting activities. Instead, she was drawn to programmes offering holistic development.

"The point is for them to be physically active and learn different facets of sport. In the apartment complex where we live, they get to learn swimming, but at the summer programme we've enrolled them in, they learn a lot more such as endurance and reflexes as well," Madhuri explained.

Her stance reflects a broader trend, with parents moving beyond the conventionally popular cricket and badminton to multi-sport ability camps, pickleball, gymnastics and even shooting.

For Aditi Ghosh, from Jayanagar, whose nine-year-old son plays football four mornings a week and table tennis on five evenings, sports camps offer more than just building skills. "Table tennis is known to improve concentration and focus," she said. "I've been wanting to enrol him, and summer camp gives him the time. They should play various sports until they are about 15-16 as each sport develops different muscle groups and contributes to overall strength, stamina, stability and flexibility," she said.

Organisers of summer camps have adapted quickly to the changing needs. Structured programmes blend fitness and movement, sport and recovery and focus on teamwork and bonding. "We offer three modules: an endurance programme for children aged six to 14, a multi-sport ability camp for younger children, and a learn-to-swim module for both children and adults," said Vibhinna Fitness Club founder, Chethan A.

The endurance camp follows a "prepare, apply, relax" framework — yoga or taekwondo in the preparation phase, cricket or football in the application phase, and swimming in the relaxation phase. The multi-sport programme begins with drills focused on speed, agility, flexibility and endurance before moving into sport-specific training, followed by yoga or pranayama.

The Buzz Around Pickleball And Gymnastics

Newer sports like pickleball are gaining traction, especially with first-time players and families, who are beginning to play together.

"More girls are taking up pickleball," said Mehul Shah, the founder of PYKLN Sports, noting that girls outnumber boys in the younger batches compared to sports like football or cricket.

Interest is also rising in sports like gymnastics, squash and shooting. Arjun Halappa, former India hockey team captain and joint director of Lakshyan Academy of Sports, pointed out that enrolment is rising across disciplines. Describing gymnastics as "the mother of all sports" the Olympian noted that many girls are opting for it.

The influence of media visibility and women's professional leagues is also boosting enrolment of girls in sports. Parents now see cricket "as an alternate profession," with women "being paid on par with men," said Irfan Sait, founder of the Karnataka Institute of Cricket (KIOC).

Connected Communities Where Kids Learn Together

Beyond the structured coaching of summer sports camps, there is a growing support system for children closer to home. In many apartment communities, residents are organising summer camps to help children build social skills.

Children get to play antique games such as Chowka Bara (played with tamarind seeds), Snake and Ladder, Hopscotch and Thief and Police at the summer camp organised at Phoenix One Bangalore West apartment complex in Rajajinagar by Padmini Sudhir. They also learn to cook without fire along with their friends at the camp. All the activities focus on helping improve children's abilities to plan, organise, make friends and get along with peers, she said.

The camp at Malleswaram's Mantri Greens focuses on teaching children the basics of Origami, vegetable carving and pottery clay modelling.

Activities at Shapoorji Pallonji Parkwest Apartment's summer camp include skating, swimming, chess, arts, dance and yoga, blending fitness, creativity and fun. The camp's aim is to foster strong community bonding and active participation. Chairman of the sports committee, Shashikant Joshi, highlighted the role of these activities in building a connected community.

Summer camps provide children opportunities to interact, share, listen, and communicate — supporting social-skill development. Without such activities, parents may resort to letting kids watch TV, said NT Prasad, a resident of Godrej Park Retreat, who runs a start-up.

Summer camps are evolving into something larger than seasonal activities. They are becoming platforms for community building where children develop skills, friendships, and confidence. In a time when individual routines often dominate daily life, these collective efforts are quietly restoring a sense of belonging.

With inputs from Kaushal V Kumar and Jia Khosla

"My parents thought I'd spend the whole summer glued to a screen because of the heat. But at GoRally, a Pickleball centre in Indiranagar, the rallies are so fast you forget how hot the weather is. It feels like a real-life video game — the 'pop' of the paddle is far more satisfying than pressing buttons, and you're actually moving instead of sitting still. And there's always the bonus of a brownie at the café
Sumer Patodia | 11

"I don't miss school. I go to CDC Kids summer camp. I've made a lot of friends in my summer camp. I love playing and colouring, and fireless cooking is my new passion
Veda Arora | 3
(AS TOLD BY HER MOTHER)

"Summer camp made me wake up early. I didn't really like it, but playing with friends was a great experience
Sajjad Raza Shirazi | 7

LEARN SPOKEN KANNADA

Lesson 6D

New words for this week

WORDS TABLE

Kannada	English
kattarisi	to cut
tandiddEne	I brought
anumaana	doubt

Kannada	English
naavu baLasalla	We don't use.
munche	before
naavu iTTilla	We didn't keep.

A conversation between a customer and a fruit vendor, where the customer tries the fruit before buying it.

Speaker	Kannada	English
Vendor	banni akkaa, banni aNNa, taajaa mattu ruchiyaada haNNugaLu kaDime belege sigtaave illi, ruchi nODi aamEle tagoLi.	Come sister, come brother, get fresh and delicious fruits at low prices here. Taste them first and then buy.
Customer	Enamma, baaLe haNNu, maavina haNNugaLu sigtaavaa?	Hello, do you have bananas and mangoes?
Fruit Vendor	houdu akkaa, nanjanagooDina rasabaaLe mattu kolarada sihi maavina haNNu ive.	Yes sister, here is a 'RasabaaLe' from Nanjangudu and Kolar's sweet mangoes.
Fruit Vendor	vijaapurada draakshi, koDagina kittaLe, uDupiya halasu, chitradurgada kallangaDi, beLagaaviya mOsambi, shivamoggada anaanaas ellaa haNNugaLu sigtaave.	Vijapura's grapes, Kodagu's oranges, Udupi's jackfruits, Chitradurga's watermelons, Belgaum's sweet limes, Shivamogga's pineapples — you will get all fruits here.
Customer	sihi iddare maatra tagOteeni, aaytaa?	I'll buy fruits only if they are sweet, okay?
Customer	ondu maavina haNNannu kattarisi koDteeraa? ruchi nODteeni.	Can you cut a mango? I'd like to taste it.
Fruit Vendor	tumbaa chennaagide akka, anumaana bEDa, tagoLLi tindu nODi, aamEle haNa koDi.	It's very good sister. Don't doubt it — taste it first, then you can pay.
Customer	sari, eraDu kg maavina haNNu mattu 1 kg baaLehaNNu koDi.	Alright, please give me 2kg of mangoes and 1kg of bananas.
Fruit Vendor	aaytu akkaa. akka cheela tandiddeera taane, naanu plastic cheela iTTilla.	Ok sister. Hope you have got a bag, sister. I don't keep plastic bags.
Customer	houdu tandiddEne, naanoo kooDaa plastic cheela baLasalla.	Yes, I have got the bag. Even I don't use plastic bags.
Customer	haage namma manege kaListeeraa? viLaasa ee cheetiyalli barediddeeni.	Also, could you please send them to our house? I have written the address on this piece of paper.
Fruit Vendor	sari akkaa, sanje baruva munche kare maaDi barteeni.	Alright, sister. I'll call you in the evening before coming over.

Exercises: Section2

Translate the following sentences into Kannada. Read out the sentences, record your voice and upload the recordings by scanning the QR code below by May 3, 2026(Sunday), 11: 59pm.Top three submissions will be recognized next week.

1. Can you cut a mango and check if it is tasty?
2. Don't you use a vehicle to come to the office?
3. I brought mangoes. If you have any doubt, I will show them.
4. Why don't you keep plastic bags?
5. Write the address on this piece of paper.
6. I will send it before I come to your house.

QR code for Lesson 6C correct answers

Lesson6C Contest Winners

Saurabh Pandey

Ranjana Gupta

Venkatachalam

Created by Makaranda. https://makaranda-erl2.onrender.com

TIMES CITY

Staff trained to handle transition, say officials

▶ Continued from page 1

The first day saw limited activity, with four registrations at Chamarajanagar sub-registrar office and two each at the remaining five offices in the district. Officials attributed the lower numbers to the inaugural schedule. Normal volumes are expected to pick up in the coming days, said Kiran C, district registrar.

Officials said staff across all sub-registrar offices in the state were trained in February to handle the transition. The department will monitor the pilot closely before expanding the system in phases.

The initiative also includes creation of a Karnataka-registered document repository, a digital archive intended to securely store property records as the single authoritative source. Officials said the move is expected to reduce errors and duplication, cut paper usage, and improve transparency while making services more accessible to citizens.

CM slams LPG price hike, warns of ripple effect

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chief minister Siddaramaiah Friday criticised the Centre over the steep hike in commercial LPG prices, alleging it was timed after the assembly elections. In a post on X, he said the price was increased by Rs 993 on May 1, taking it to over Rs 3,000 per cylinder, after being deliberately held back during the polls.

He accused the Centre of passing the burden of global price fluctuations onto people instead of offering relief. Siddaramaiah warned that eateries and catering services would be forced to raise prices, making food costlier. He termed the hike a "cruel irony" on Labour Day.

Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar also slammed the move, calling it a betrayal of the poor. He said businesses may shut down due to rising costs and criticised the Centre's promotion of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

"They (BJP leaders) have brought in the situation, leading to a 'firewood bhagya' scheme, but the forest department does not allow people to bring firewood home," Shivakumar said.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS TO BECOME COSTLIER, SAYS FEDERATION SECY

LG Kumar, secretary of the Karnataka circle of the All India LPG Distributors' Federation, emphasised the effects of the increase in industrial LPG prices. "The price of a 47.5kg industrial LPG has gone up by Rs 2,477.5 and now stands at Rs 7,878.5. This will have an effect on prices of all the materials and products produced by these industries." He added that there is very little hope of the situation improving. "As there have been bombings (in West Asia), the impact is high. The ships which have arrived are not prepared for return trips. The insurance rates on carriers have also seen steep hikes," he added. TNN

TOI

PRICEY COMMODITY: Commercial LPG prices were increased steeply Friday

"Immediately after the elections, you can see that gas prices, which had not been increased earlier, are now being raised. Because of this, many hotels are shutting down. Lakhs of auto drivers who run gas-powered autos are losing their daily income
Krishna Byre Gowda | REVENUE MINISTER

Restaurants weighing up shift to induction stoves

▶ Continued from page 1

Several restaurants are now evaluating a gradual shift towards induction-based cooking systems to reduce dependence on LPG, although this will require additional investments in power infrastructure and take time to implement.

Rameshwaram Cafe co-founder Raghavendra Rao said LPG accounts for about 4-5% of overall operating costs, which could now rise to 6-7%. Bengaluru has around 30,000 hotels. The impact of the hike on small eateries will be severe, hoteliers warned.

"LPG currently accounts for about 4-5% of our overall operating costs, which could rise to 6-7%. Despite the increase, Rameshwaram Cafe does not plan to raise menu prices immediately. We are evaluating a gradual shift towards induction-based cooking systems
RAGHAVENDRA RAO
Co-founder, Rameshwaram Cafe

Terming the hike abnormal, PC Rao said: "As soon as the elections were over, the govt gave us a big blow. It may think commercial cylinder prices do not impact the common man directly, but it will certainly have a cascading effect. This move will also affect hostels, PGs and canteens. Increasing prices of food items is not our intention, but it is unavoidable."

He added that the association will send a representation to the Centre, seeking a reduction in GST on commercial LPG from 18% to 5% as a relief measure.

BHA secretary Veerendra Kamat said even as hoteliers were looking for alternative fuel sources, most were not practical. "The electricity tariff was increased in April. We are also required to pay arrears in power tariffs from March 2024 to April 2026, which may run into lakhs. Switching to solar power is impossible as most restaurants operate from rented premises," he said. Though shifting to piped gas is an option, pipelines have not been laid in central Bengaluru, he added.

(With inputs from Surpriya Roy)

Govt orders 2 probes, safety audit across city

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state govt has constituted two committees to investigate the collapse of a compound wall at the govt-run Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital following heavy rain that left seven people dead. Both panels have been asked to submit reports within a week.

WALL COLLAPSE

Chief minister Siddaramaiah had earlier ordered a probe and suspended an executive engineer in connection with the incident.

One committee, comprising the deputy commissioner of Bengaluru Urban district and the Yelahanka tahsildar, will conduct a local inquiry. A second, five-member technical panel of public works department (PWD) officials, headed by retired chief engineer Mohan K, will examine structural aspects.

The terms of reference mandate the panels to verify when the wall was built, the materials used, and factors that may have led to the collapse. They will also assess whether maintenance norms were followed, if any recent works weakened the structure, and whether the wall had exceeded its lifecycle and required rebuilding.

"On April 29, because of heavy rain in Bengaluru city, the compound wall of Bowring Hospital suddenly collapsed, resulting in the death of seven people on the spot, including a girl standing for shelter from the rain. The CM has taken a serious view of the incident," the govt order read. Stating that delayed repairs contributed to the tragedy, the order added: "PWD has been directed to conduct an inquiry in this matter, obtain an explanation from the officials concerned, and urgently submit a report through the retired chief engineer."

In a parallel move, deputy CM DK Shivakumar said the Greater Bengaluru Authority has begun identifying hazardous structures and trees across the city to prevent accidents and ease congestion. "They have identified for the first phase 448 trees. At some places, where there are trees which have completely dried up, they will be cut," he said.

New HAL CMD takes charge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Ravi K has taken charge as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). He takes over from DK Sunil, who superannuated on April 30.

Ravi was previously director (operations) at HAL, where he was involved in strategic planning. He has more than 30 years of experience in aerospace and defence, manufacturing and electronics.

"During his earlier roles — which included executive director and general manager of the LCA Tejas division — he was associated with several major contracts, including the supply of 180 LCA Tejas aircraft to the Indian Air Force and 156 LCH Prachand helicopters to the Indian Army and Air Force," HAL said in a statement. It added that he has also been credited with work towards operationalising the Tejas fleet in IAF and increasing indigenous content in the programme.

"His tenure saw HAL expand into civil manufacturing and the maintenance, repair and overhaul segment. He also oversaw the outsourcing of fuselage assemblies to private sector partners to expand production capacity," HAL said.

Ravi is a mechanical engineer from Malnad College of Engineering, Karnataka, and an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad and IAS, Toulouse, France. He also serves as a nominee director on the board of Multi-Role Transport Aircraft Ltd. He said his focus would be on making HAL competitive in the global aerospace and defence market, with an emphasis on innovation,

SC verdict clears 26-year hurdle for mega agri market

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Bengaluru: After more than two decades of legal limbo, a decisive green signal from the Supreme Court has unlocked what could become one of the most transformative agricultural marketing infrastructure projects in the city. By clearing the way for the proposed mega agriculture market on 272.3 acres on Magadi Main Road in west Bengaluru, the apex court ruling not only brings an end to a prolonged courtroom battle but also promises to ease the city's mounting supply chain pressures, stabilise farm-to-market linkages, and reinforce Bengaluru's position as a key agri-trade hub connecting Karnataka's farmers with urban consumers.

Close on the heels of the apex court's verdict, the Bangalore Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) has taken possession of the land after depositing Rs 226 crore with the court. The site, located between Srigandhakaval (172 acres and 22 guntas) and Herohalli (100 acres and 11 guntas), is now set to host a world-class market. The project remained stalled since the state govt first notified the acquisition in 1994, following a series of legal challenges by the Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust, the original landowners.

File photo

NOT ENOUGH: The existing APMC market at Yeshwantpur has little space for development

LONG COURTROOM BATTLE OVER LAND ACQUISITION

1999-2000: Jamnalal Bajaj Seva Trust challenges land acquisition in high court
2014: High court rules acquisition lapsed under 2013 Land Acquisition Act
2014-2019: Appeals and review petitions by APMC dismissed
2022: Supreme Court intervenes; remands matter to high court for fresh hearing
Feb 3, 2025: HC single bench upholds acquisition under 1894 Act
Jan 30, 2026: Division bench confirms validity of acquisition
April 27, 2026: Supreme Court dismisses fresh petitions on matter, clearing the project

The trust moved the Karnataka high court in 1999-2000, contesting the land acquisition. In 2014, the high court ruled that the acquisition had lapsed under provisions of the 2013 land acquisition law. Appeals and review petitions filed thereafter were dismissed until 2019. A turning point came in 2022 when the matter reached the Supreme Court through a special leave petition (SLP). The apex court set aside earlier high court orders and directed a fresh examination of procedural aspects.

On Feb 3, 2025, a single bench of the high court upheld the acquisition under the Land Acquisition Act of 1894, a decision that was later affirmed by a division bench on Jan 30, 2026. Unhappy with the outcome, the trust again approached the Supreme Court. However, a bench, comprising Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, dismissed the petitions on April 27, upholding the high court's ruling and finally clearing the path for the mega market.

APMC officials hailed the verdict as a landmark moment for agricultural marketing in the city. "Given the current and future growth of Bengaluru and imminent demand for various agricultural commodities, this was crucial. Agricultural marketing minister Shivanand S Patil not only extended his support but also constantly guided the officials and followed up with the legal team," said the APMC's additional director and secretary KC Doreswamy.

With plans to build a global-standard agri market, APMC officials visited West Asia and other places to study international models before finalising the blueprint.

"The existing APMC market at Yeshwantpur, after it was moved from Old Tharagupet in 1980, has not only become congested but also exhausted its limits with hardly any space for development. At the same time, the population of Bengaluru has also tripled, demanding a well-planned market. The site at Magadi Road is just 1.5km from the NICE corridor and we are planning to build a flyover linking the NICE Road. It will have seamless access to other parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Even though a few of the commodities such as meat and fish are not notified, we are planning to include them along with wholesale and retail agricultural commodities, including vegetables, fruits and flowers," a senior APMC official explained.

Taking leave to catch a movie is fair, boss!

Why take leave for a movie? Moviegoers ask, 'Why not?'

'Officegoers who don't get leave, come for 9am and 1am movie shows'

With new season drops, leave applications go up too!

FILM REVIEWS

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Should you watch it?

Review in short

A sweet, pleasant, one-time-watch romantic drama

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Review in short

OTT REVIEWS

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GLORY

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Should you watch it?

Review in short

£500m expansion on the cards with The Crown prequel

NEED HELP DECIDING WHAT TO WATCH? WE'VE GOT YOU

ELLI AVRRAM

One stretch eased, another clogged: Double-decker flyover opened at last

3.5km Structure Links Silk Board & Ragigudda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Motorists can now use the double-decker flyover between Central Silk Board and Ragigudda Metro station after deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar inaugurated the elevated corridor Friday. The flyover was opened to traffic around 4pm.

The project, executed by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) at a cost of Rs 500 crore as part of Namma Metro's Yellow Line, spans 3.5km and connects Silk Board to Ragigudda. It includes five ramps near the Silk Board junction, aimed at easing congestion.

Construction of the flyover began in 2017 and was completed in April 2026. A section between Ragigudda and Silk Board was opened in July 2024. The full corridor was opened on a trial basis last week but then shut for two days to address road safety concerns. Following rectifications and formal inauguration, it has now been opened to regular traffic.

With the flyover open, traffic congestion has shifted to adjoining areas. "Opening the new stretch of the double-decker flyover has brought relief to motorists at Silk Board. However, congestion has shifted towards Ragigudda Metro station side. During the trial run, heavy traffic was observed on the Marenahalli Road stretch, especially near Shri Raghavendra Swamy junction. Several measures have been taken to decongest the area, including the imposition of one-way traffic on 11th Main B and regulating traffic near Ragigudda station to ease congestion at the down ramp," a senior traffic official said.

Syed Asif

GRAND OPENING: The flyover was opened to traffic at around 4pm Friday after the inauguration by deputy CM DK Shivakumar

3-day disruption in Peenya

Meanwhile, commuters using the busy Peenya elevated flyover will face a three-day disruption as authorities have announced restrictions to facilitate structural integrity testing of the structure.

Traffic police have imposed a complete ban on vehicular movement on Dr Sri Shivakumar Swamiji Flyover, part of NH-4, from 5am on May 5 to 11am on May 8, acting on a request from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The restrictions will apply along key stretches such as Kennametal Widia upper ramp to SRS down ramp, and from CMTI Junction to Parle-G Toll via the flyover.

Traffic will be diverted to the surface road network. Vehicles travelling from Nelamangala towards the city will be rerouted near Kennametal factory along NH-4 below the flyover and adjoining service roads, passing through Eight Mile, Dasarahalli, Jalahalli Cross, Peenya Police Station Junction, SRS Junction, and Goragunteplaya.

Those heading from CMTI towards Nelamangala will be redirected along NH-4 below the flyover via SRS Junction, Peenya Police Station Junction, Jalahalli Cross, Dasarahalli, Eight Mile, and Parle-G Toll.

Foundation laid for BSK circular skywalk

Foundation was laid Friday for a circular skywalk at the busy Banashankari TTMC junction. The skywalk is intended to provide seamless access to the Green Line Metro station, the BMTC transit hub, and nearby facilities. The project, first proposed in 2019, was delayed owing to multiple factors. The junction sees thousands of pedestrians daily, many of whom cross heavy traffic, posing safety risks. The Metro authority is likely to take 15 months to build the skywalk.

Commercial complex at Gandhi Bazaar

A six-floor commercial complex with multi-level car parking facility, built at a cost of Rs 22 crore under the Bengaluru Smart City initiative, has been inaugurated at Gandhi Bazaar. The facility includes 51 shops on the ground floor and parking for 128 cars across four levels.

Equipped with lifts and toilets on every floor, purified drinking water, free Wi-Fi, and a 24x7 smart parking system with real-time availability indicators, the complex also provides reserved parking for women, senior citizens, and the physically challenged. The facility has been leased for 10 years and is expected to generate Rs 15 lakh annually.

LED lights up Bengaluru's Metro pillars

In a move to enhance Bengaluru's night-time aesthetics, dynamic LED RGBW facade lighting has been launched on Namma Metro pillars. Currently, 50 pillars at MG Road, Trinity, and Anil Kumble Circle are illuminated, with plans to cover 160 pillars across key stretches such as Mysore Road, Lalbagh, and Jayanagar. The Rs 3-crore project is expected to be completed by June.

Modern parking facility at KR Market

A modern operation and maintenance system for ground-floor parking, covering 10,000sqm, has been inaugurated at KR Market in Chamarajpet constituency. The facility can accommodate 200 cars and 400 two-wheelers, and is expected to generate Rs 41 lakh annually. It features 12 panic buttons for women's safety, 62 CCTV cameras, EV charging stations, valet parking, digital display boards on slot availability, and a mobile app-based system for seamless access.

Burglars drill hole in wall of shop, flee with 70kg silver

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Bengaluru: In a daring overnight burglary straight out of a crime thriller, burglars recently broke into a jewellery shop by drilling a hole in a rear wall and made away with a haul of silver worth nearly Rs 1.2 crore.

The burglary at MB Jewellers, located in RSK Complex, Hesaraghatta Main Road, came to light around 7.30am on April 28.

MIDNIGHT HEIST

According to the complaint filed by the shopowner, Mahendra Kumar J, 50, with Bagalagunte police, he locked the shop the previous night around 9.15pm after securing gold ornaments in a locker and leaving silver items in the display showcase. He was alerted about the burglary by the building owner, Ashok.

Kumar rushed to the spot and found his shop still locked from the front, but with a major breach at the rear — a hole with a diameter of 1.5ft. Adjoining the shop at the rear is a godown belonging to Ashok's relative. The burglars allegedly gained access by breaking the godown lock, then drilling through the wall to enter the jewellery shop undetected. The burglars decamped with around 70kg of silver articles, including chains, rings, and idols.

In a parallel break-in, the thieves also targeted Prince Ceramics shop's godown, located behind the jewellery shop, where they broke open the shutters and stole a laptop, a phone, a DVR system, souvenirs worth around Rs 50,000, and Rs 1,500 in cash. The ceramics shop is owned by Madhusudhan.

A senior police officer said it appears that the burglars first committed theft at the ceramics godown, later broke the lock of the adjacent godown, and drilled a hole into the jewellery shop.

Security gaps

Kumar told police that he employed a security guard only during daytime hours. The CCTV camera installed in the store only has live streaming and no storage, an officer said. "Since the DVR from the ceramics shop was stolen, we have verified CCTV cameras in the surrounding areas and are making efforts to nab the miscreants," he said.

Jail inmate makes video call from cell

Bengaluru: The issue of mobile phone use inside the Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara has resurfaced once again after a video showing an undertrial prisoner making a video call went viral on social media.

Screengrab

#VIRAL

Akbar, 24, was allegedly seen sitting inside the prison and making the video call to his wife. The video was reportedly screen-recorded and later posted on Instagram by his wife, along with another clip of his release from the jail recently.

According to officials, Akbar was released on bail two days ago, but the viral video footage has raised fresh concerns over security lapses. Prison authorities are now verifying the authenticity of the video and probing how the device was smuggled into the jail.

"The video that went viral has come to our notice. We are collecting details about the prisoner and when he made the video call," director-general of police (prisons) Alok Kumar said.

Akbar had been arrested in a drug peddling case. TNN

Panel: Lack of interest due to lower pay

▶ Continued from page 1

The report prepared by the committee also points to the reasons behind lack of interest in core disciplines. While a mechanical engineering graduate from a tier 2 college earns a starting salary of Rs 3.5-4.5 lakh annually, his CS counterpart gets around Rs 5-8 lakh.

Moreover, core curricula in many colleges have not been updated substantially for more than 15 years.

Commenting on the proposals, MC Sudhakar, the minister for higher education, elaborated: "In the coming years, we will be discussing and implementing various reforms."

Workforce gaps

- India faces workforce gap of **20,000-35,000**
- State-level gap at **10,000-15,000**

Projected annual shortfall

- Aerospace and defence: **4,500-8,500**
- Semiconductors and VLSI: **10,000-15,000**
- Electric vehicles: **6,000-11,000**
- Clean energy: **5,000-9,000**
- Infrastructure: **6,000-12,000**
- Biomedical devices: **2,200-4,200**

Spotlight on Nandini Layout as fun & games return tomorrow

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As Happy Streets by **The Times of India** returns to Nandini Layout this Sunday, the spotlight extends beyond the stage to a vibrant line-up of street partners bringing creativity, learning, and fitness to the forefront.

The stretch near Oxford Secondary School will once again transform into a lively, traffic-free space for residents to explore and engage.

At the Reclaim Constitution stall, visitors can pick up copies of the Preamble while engaging with ideas around civic awareness. Art lovers can unwind with mandala art by Prashree Art, while NS Kumbar Art Academy and NeeRav Arts Village will offer hands-on art and craft experiences for all age groups.

Adding a unique cultural touch, Postcrossing Welfare Society of India (PSOI) will introduce participants to postcard writing and philately, encouraging a return to meaningful, handwritten communication.

Fitness and movement will also play a key role, with Quadz Fitness showcasing basic gym equipment for beginners to try and City Skaters offering a glimpse into skating through interactive sessions. For those who enjoy learning with a twist, QShala will bring engaging quizzing and fun-based learning activities to the streets.

Together, these street partners are set to create a well-rounded and interactive experience, making Happy Streets, presented by Bhima Jewellers, a lively Sunday outing for families and individuals alike.

Let's D-Stress campaign expands from campuses to residential communities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As digital fatigue increasingly impacts daily life across age groups, **The Times of India**'s Let's D-Stress initiative expands beyond campuses into residential communities with its Let's D-Stress: Community Conversations.

1ST EDITION TODAY

The first edition will be organised Saturday at Prestige Jindal City, Bagalagunte, marking the beginning of a citywide effort to bring conversations on mindful technology use closer to where people live.

The session will feature Dr Eesha Sharma, associate professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at Nimhans, alongside RJ Shaayan Bhattacharya, who will lead an engaging and relatable interaction. The initiative is designed to address digital overuse and its impact on focus, sleep, productivity and overall mental wellbeing, offering practical tools for families to build healthier habits together.

Prakash C, president, Prestige Jindal City Apartment Owners' Association (PJCAOA) welcomed the initiative. Speaking about it, he said, "We are incredibly proud that Prestige Jindal City has been chosen as the first premium gated community in Bengaluru to host **The Times of India**'s 'Let's D-Stress' programme. In an era where digital saturation affects every generation, bringing this scientific initiative, developed in collaboration with experts from Nimhans and IIT Delhi, to our doorstep is a landmark moment for our community."

Basavaraja Jagadevappa, PJCAOA secretary, added, "It is a privilege to welcome the 'Let's D-Stress' initiative to Prestige Jindal City. This session on optimum use of technology is a vital step towards fostering a healthier, more mindful environment where our children can focus better, our youth can overcome digital distractions, and our professionals can find relief from digital fatigue."

Fake movers scam: 3 yrs on, missing scooter surfaces via traffic challan

Chaithanya.Swamy
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Bengaluru: A scooter that went missing during relocation from Bengaluru to Patna has resurfaced through a traffic challan. The complainant said his Suzuki Swish 125, handed over to a logistics service provider in 2023, never reached him. Recently, he found a traffic challan issued on the same vehicle, which revealed an unidentified person using it. The victim has filed an online complaint with police.

According to the complaint filed by Abhishek Kumar Jha, 32, a software engineer residing in Darbhanga, Bihar, with HAL police on April 29, his scooter (Suzuki Swish) bearing registration number KA-04-JB-7719 was lost during transit.

"I shifted from Bengaluru to Pune in 2021. While shifting, I left my scooter at my friend's house in AECS Layout in Kundalahalli. I wanted my scooter for my own use and searched for logistics services online. I found a mobile number impersonating a well-known logistics company in the state (VRL)," Abhishek told **TOI**.

When Abhishek contacted the number, a person collected the details of the scooter, including the registration card and address. Little did Abhishek know that he was in contact with a crook. The impersonator gave another number, and a person collected the details of the scooter's location. Once it was shared, a person went and picked up the scooter on Jan 4, 2023.

"I suspected something fishy when I didn't get an invoice for transportation charges after the scooter was collected. I reached out to the numbers I used to book the transit to return the scooter, claiming I had changed my plans. Initially, they claimed the scooter would be handed over at a police station; later they kept giving excuses. Then I searched the number on the internet and found reviews stating that they were fraudsters and that after collecting money, they extort people for more," he said.

Abhishek immediately tweeted about the fraud. Police suggested he file a complaint at the jurisdictional police station, but since he was in Pune, he was unable to do so. Recently, he checked for traffic violations of his scooter and found a challan. The fine, dated Sept 27, 2025, was for a pillion rider not wearing a helmet on Varthur Road. "I got to know about the option of filing a complaint online and took it up," Abhishek said.

Based on Abhishek's complaint, HAL police have registered a case under IPC Section 379 (punishment for theft). Further investigation is under way.

TOI

CAUGHT ON TRAFFIC CAMERA: When the scooter owner checked for traffic violations, he found the fine, dated Sept 27, 2025, for a pillion rider not wearing a helmet on Varthur Road

"We have requested the complainant to appear at the police station with documents relating to relocation, records of the transportation logistics, reasons why the vehicle has not reached him, along with the vehicle documents. Further investigation in under way — **A senior police officer**

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UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

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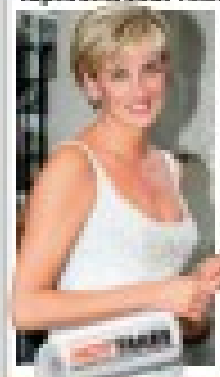
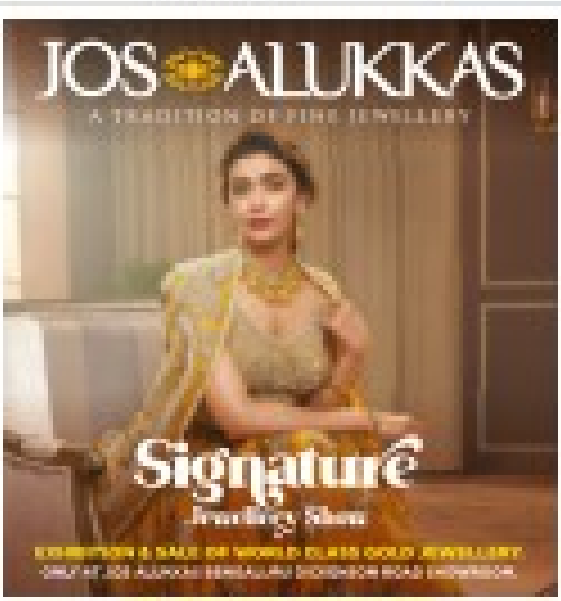


Why this sound idea has taken on a new meaning

POV

A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TOMMY HILFIGER

BJP calls ₹600-crore plan to develop colonies of minorities appeasement

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Principal opposition BJP Friday accused the govt of "appeasement" and insulting Hindus over its Rs 600 crore plan to develop minority community colonies across the state.

The state cabinet Thursday approved a Rs 600-crore grant to develop these colonies over the next two financial years — 2026-27 and 2027-28. The funds will be used to improve infrastructure and basic amenities in minority-dominated localities, including slums in 11 city corporations.

State BJP president BY Vijayendra questioned the move, saying: "BJP is not anti-minorities, but when Congress won the elections, didn't Hindus vote for them? Each decision this govt takes is aimed at minority appeasement and an insult to Hindus. People will not pardon this."

Leader of the opposition R Ashoka alleged the govt was "prioritising vote bank politics" over development. "There is no development. Roads are pothole-ridden, but the govt is strengthening its vote bank," he said. Linking the decision to the Davanagere South bypoll fiasco, he said: "After protests by Muslim clerics and internal dissent, the govt is trying to send a message. But sentiments were hurt, and there is talk of a shift. Let's see."

PTI

HOW GOES? Union minister of state Shobha Karandlaje interacts with workers during an International Labour Day event in Hubballi on Friday

Congress had copped immense flak over its handling of the Davanagere South bye-election, where it chose not to field a Muslim candidate, triggering discontent among sections of the community and within party ranks. Disciplinary action against two Muslim MLCs only made matters worse. The cabinet's decision appears to be an exercise in damage control.

A similar plan targeting Muslim colony development and waqf property protection was mooted in 2025 and BJP criticised it, calling it "ghettoization". However, law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil rejected suggestions that the move was politically motivated. "Nobody is waiting to use it as a political tool," he said.

Explaining the two-year allocation, Patil said the govt wants to ensure completion of projects without delays. "Some of the projects could overrun the time frame, and a decision was taken to give additional approval for one more year so that the projects are not left incomplete," he said.

140 acres for firm

The govt also approved 140 acres for Applied Materials, a leading California-based semiconductor company, at a cost of Rs 785 crore at Bengaluru Signature Business Park in Devanahalli.

Patil said the deal is on a lease-cum-sale deed basis. "The land will be provided to the company at Rs 1,288 per sqft," he said. Applied Materials intends to set up a state-of-the-art semiconductor research and development and innovation ecosystem.

The cabinet also decided to withdraw the April 27 notification on Scheduled Caste internal reservation since it clashed with already conducted examinations for posts. During discussions on internal reservation roster points, where posts for SCs under three groups are to be distributed as per hierarchy, the govt learnt that the merit list for 1,600 posts called for by the KEA and another 1,400 posts called for by KPSC was completed.

"The April 27 notification had also encompassed these posts and hence it had to be withdrawn," a minister said. "A fresh notification will be issued after consultation with the social welfare department for all other posts where the merit lists have not been announced."

The cabinet also approved high speed rail corridors for Bengaluru-Hyderabad and Bengaluru-Chennai and viable gap funding of Rs 28 crore for Star Air to run flights between Bengaluru-Bidar and Bengaluru-Kalaburagi.

₹228CR KSDL UNIT IN VIJAYAPURA

The state will get a new sandal soap production unit, with the cabinet approving a Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd (KSDL) facility at Vijayapura at a cost of Rs 227.9 crore. The new unit will be developed on a 50-acre plot at Ittangihal industrial area and is aimed at boosting industrial growth, generating jobs and expanding market reach.

MB Patil

MB Patil, industries minister, said KSDL, with a portfolio of 94 products, including the iconic Mysore Sandal Soap, has strong demand in north Karnataka and neighbouring Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Of the total outlay, Rs 30 crore has been earmarked for land acquisition, pegged at Rs 59.3 lakh per acre. The other major heads include construction (Rs 77.9 crore), infrastructure (Rs 24 crore), and machinery (Rs 70.8 crore). The 110-year-old KSDL recorded its highest-ever production of 47,494 tonnes, turnover of Rs 2,016 crore, and a profit of Rs 507 crore in 2025-26.

Kharge has put a full stop to CM change question: HM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Home minister G Parameshwara said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has effectively put a "full stop" to speculation over a change in chief minister in the state, asserting that the issue stands closed "for now".

Welcoming Kharge's remark that Siddaramaiah will continue as CM, Parameshwara said Friday it "carried weight". "He has expressed an opinion after a discussion involving him, Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala," Parameshwara said. "So, the matter ends there."

Emphasising discipline, Parameshwara said, "What the party president has said must be respected and accepted by all. What he said can't be interpreted in any other way. In my opinion, the AICC chief is the supreme authority in the party. He, along with Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, are our high command. If the high command has said something, we should accept it."

TOI

SAME CAMP: CM Siddaramaiah and G Parameshwara

> As a Congressman, I have been very loyal to the party. Our seniors' words are very important. We will go by the party's direction
> **DK Shivakumar** | DEPUTY CM & KPCC PRESIDENT

Parameshwara also referred to Kharge's experience while addressing suggestions of a change. "Kharge is our national president and has immense experience. Many, including me, have said that in the case of change, if he comes to state politics, no one can stand in front of his experience."

In Kalaburagi, Kharge again ruled out a change in CM for now while insisting no timeline has been fixed to discuss any change. "I, as AICC president, Sonia Gandhi as Congress Parliamentary party president, and Rahul Gandhi as the leader of opposition in Lok Sabha will take such decisions and act together. We three will fix a date and take a decision. Since no date has been fixed yet, how can I say whether a change is happening or not?"

He said any decision they take will be final and binding. "Whatever decision is taken, it will be in the interest of the state, and everyone will have to support it," Kharge added.

Postal ballots to be recounted today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chikkamagaluru: Acting on directions from the Karnataka high court, verification of rejected postal ballots polled in the 2023 assembly election for Sringeri constituency will be held at IDSG College in Chikkamagaluru Saturday.

The deputy secretary-2 of Chikkamagaluru ZP has been appointed as returning officer. If any of the 279 ballots are found valid during verification, it will be added and recounted along with already accepted postal votes in the presence of the candidates.

SRINGERI SEAT

"Once verification and recounting are complete, results will be sent to the chief electoral officer in Bengaluru," said NM Nagaraj, district deputy commissioner. In 2023, Congress candidate TD Raje Gowda was declared winner by 201 votes, but BJP's DN Jeevaraj later approached court seeking a recount.

Prada-KILT to train first batch of 15 Kolhapuri artisans in July

Pearl.DSouza@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The first batch of 15 artisans from the state will begin training at Karnataka Institute of Leather Technology and Fashion (KILT) in July under the Prada-Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation Ltd (Lidkar) collaboration, marking the start of a three-year programme to skill 90 artisans in the state.

The initiative follows criticism faced by the global luxury brand over its use of the Kolhapuri design, for which Lidkar and Maharashtra's Sant Rohidas Leather Industries & Charmakar Development Corporation Ltd (Lidcom) hold the GI tag. The collaboration has since expanded to include product development and skill-building.

Lorenzo Bertelli, Prada's group head for CSR, had said at the launch of the 'Inspired by Kolhapuri Collection': "With the training programme, we are translating shared cultural dialogue into a concrete opportunity for learning and growth."

TOI

OFF TO SCHOOL: Artisans will be trained in designing other leather products besides slippers

KM Vasundhara, Lidkar managing director, said batches of artisans will be trained every six months. "The training is financed by Prada in terms of machinery and trainer skilling, and artisans will be accommodated at KILT, Bengaluru," Vasundhara said.

Applications will open later this month on Lidkar and the institutes' websites. She said a similar number of artisans will be trained in Maharashtra through collaborations with Lidcom and NIFT. "We have proposed a stipend for our artisans," she said.

Siddalingappa B Pujari, director, KILT, said artisans will learn design fundamentals, trend analysis, market study, design development from concept to product branding and digital literacy. Prada will review and examine the teaching material. In Jan 2027, the 15 artisans will travel to Prada Group Academy in Italy for a week-long advanced training programme. Artisans who go on to become entrepreneurs can market their products through Lidkar outlets.

Suresh Namdeo Shinde, an artisan from Athani who attended a Prada-led workshop earlier, said: "There was a 20% addition to our technique. One aspect emphasised was precision in measurements and making footwear softer for the wearer."

E-khata campaign from May 16

Bengaluru: Deputy CM DK Shivakumar said the 'Nanna e-Khata' campaign will begin from May 16, under which open-house counters will be set up every Saturday at around 50 locations in Bengaluru to help citizens resolve property-related issues.

Shivakumar told reporters Friday the initiative will be held in schools to avoid overcrowding in municipal offices. About 5,000 grievances are expected to be addressed every week and discrepancies will be verified on the ground and resolved within 15 days.

Calling it a "national record", he said Greater Bengaluru Authority has already issued more than 23 lakh e-khatas. He said the aim is to ensure clean records and that those without proper documents are the only ones opposing the system. TNN

Framework planned to beat the heat

Pearl.DSouza@timesofindia.com

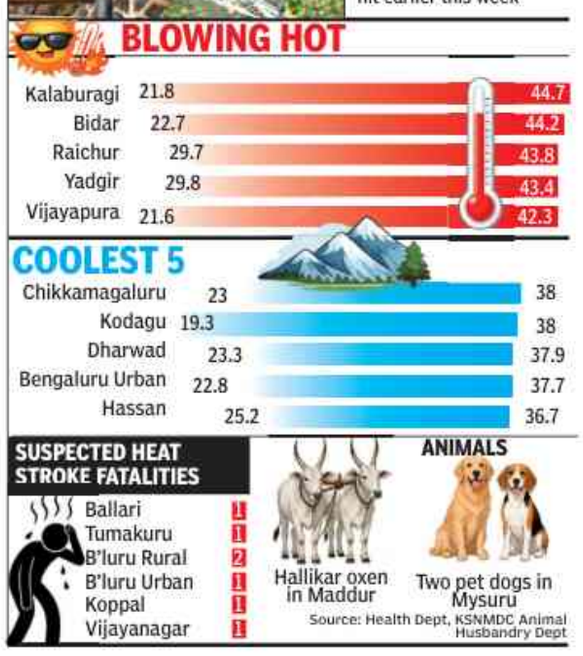
Bengaluru: The govt has proposed a comprehensive heatwave resilience and integrated heat action management framework to tackle rising temperatures and recurring heatwaves, with a focus on public health, worker safety and urban cooling.

The draft framework, prepared by Karnataka State Disaster Management Authority, aims to create a coordinated, technology-driven response system across districts. It proposes appointing a state chief heat officer and district-level nodal officers to ensure implementation of heat mitigation and emergency measures.

S Mohanadass Hegde, member, Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission, who submitted the framework, said the plan mandates district-specific action plans backed by early warning alerts integrated with India Meteorological Department. Key measures include setting up public hydration points, shaded shelters, cooling centres and dedicated cool rooms in govt hospitals to treat heatstroke patients.

TOI

COOLING OFF: Mysuru Zoo, in March this year, installed sprinklers at some enclosures to keep animals cool. The district was declared heatwave hit earlier this week



The framework also calls for distribution of ORS in schools, bus stands and labour hubs, besides deploying ambulances and trained medical teams during heat alerts. It stresses compulsory rest breaks for outdoor workers during peak afternoon hours and training for ASHA workers and first responders.

A major focus is on urban heat reduction. Under a proposed cooling mission, cities will see expansion of tree cover, cool roof initiatives, reflective roads, shaded walkways, smart bus shelters and rejuvenation of water bodies to counter the urban heat island effect. The proposal identifies high-risk groups such as construction workers, street vendors, traffic police, the elderly, children and the homeless, calling for targeted protection measures. It also seeks to integrate heatwave responses with existing disaster management and health surveillance systems, supported by real-time dashboards and GIS-based heat mapping.

GBA to float int'l tenders for project mgmnt consultancy

▶ Continued from page 1

As part of the compensation framework, 9,693 residential sites and 8,723 commercial sites will be allotted to landowners who part with their land.

After accounting for compensation and mandatory green spaces, about 44.5% of the total project area will remain available for development by the authority. This land is proposed to be monetised through bulk sales, along with additional revenue streams such as property tax and premium floor area ration (FAR). Of the projected revenue, Rs 22,654 crore is expected from site sales, while property tax and premium FAR are estimated to contribute Rs 5,739 crore and Rs 5,169 crore, respectively.

SUBURBAN TOWNSHIP IN A NUTSHELL

- Total project land extent: 7,814 acres
- Total project cost: ₹18,133cr
- Land under pvt ownership: 6,650 acres
- Development cost: ₹6,580cr
- Land under govt ownership: 830 acres
- Land acquisition cost: ₹9,081cr
- Revenue from property tax: ₹5,739cr
- Revenue from sale of sites: ₹22,654cr

As a preparatory step, GBA plans to float international tenders to appoint a project management consultancy, with an estimated cost of Rs 31 crore. On the funding side, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is expected to invest Rs 3,000 crore as equity in exchange for 551 acres of developed land. Additional funding includes Rs 7,500 crore from financial institutions and Hudoc, while GBA plans to raise Rs 3,650 crore by mortgaging civic amenity sites.

The cabinet is learnt to have set aside concerns raised by the finance department over minimising govt liability through a PPP model. Officials cited the project's structure, where nearly 60% of the land is earmarked for acquisition and development to compensate landowners, as a key factor.

The finance department had suggested a phased implementation to reduce financial risk. However, the urban development department opposed the move, warning that delays could significantly escalate land acquisition costs and jeopardise project completion.

The township, which has faced delays for over a decade in its earlier Bidadi avatar due to multiple setbacks, is now being pushed as a major urban expansion initiative.

44 peacock deaths in Tumakuru linked to H5N1 avian flu; 33 villages alerted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: What was initially feared to be a fallout of searing summer heat has taken a more serious turn, with laboratory reports confirming that the deaths of 44 peacocks in Tumakuru were caused by the H5N1 strain of avian influenza. The deaths were reported between April 16 and April 24 in Bommanahalli and Machenahalli villages of Tumakuru taluk. The revelation comes days after initial reports linked the bird deaths to extreme heat conditions, raising concerns among wildlife and animal health authorities.

Samples collected from the carcasses confirmed the presence of H5N1 virus, according to forest officials, prompting authorities to shift focus from heat-related stress to disease containment, even as harsh weather is believed to have weakened the birds. The district administration has sounded a high alert in 33 villages within a 10-km radius and directed officials to undertake disinfectant spraying. "We have stepped up surveillance and put in place the preventive measures across the district to ensure the infection does not spread to other birds in the vicinity," said Shashidhar GR, DCF, Tumakuru.

TOI

DAMAGE CONTROL: After the confirmation, authorities have shifted focus from heat-related stress to disease containment, even as harsh weather is believed to have weakened the birds in Bommanahalli & Machenahalli villages of Tumakuru taluk

Suspecting that the virus may have originated from nearby poultry farms, authorities have initiated containment measures, including sensitising poultry owners and traders and collecting samples from birds. Movement in and out of identified sensitive zones is being monitored. The district administration has also deployed a multi-departmental rapid response team, comprising veterinarians, revenue officials, GP members and forest personnel, to oversee field-level surveillance. "Our major focus is to track any further cases and implement biosecurity measures," a revenue department official from Tumakuru clarified.

Forest officials added no fresh peacock deaths have been reported since April 23. "The situation is under control. Yet, we are continuously monitoring both the affected and adjoining areas."

— By Nadi Ganadhal

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Dr Lakshmi Nagarajan
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Your smiling face, optimistic attitude, your unconditional love for all living beings are always remembered by us. We miss you so much.
Husband: Dr A.D. Nagarajan
Sons: Anand & Arun
Daughter in laws: Vijayavani & Shraddhanjali
Grandchildren: Arvin & Varna

1st Year Death Anniversary

Shyamala Vinayakam
17th March 1941- 2nd May 2025
Mummy you left us silently without a good bye Although we cannot see you, you are always at our side..
Loving and missing you.
Nirupa & Durga Meenakshi and Abhishek

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Died : 01.05.2026
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RETD. JUDICIAL MEMBER, ITAT,
W/o Mr. R.VIJAYARAGHAVAN
D/o Mr.K.R.RAMAMANI - Mrs. HEMALATA RAMAMANI
DEEPLY MOURNED BY
R. Vijayaraghavan, Mridula, Vikram, and Family Members
Staff and Advocates - SAPR Advocates
Staff RMT SCHOOL
Last Rites on 3rd May 2026 (Sunday) at 9.00 AM
New No:75A, Old No:105A, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore, Chennai - 4.
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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

OMAR DENIES ISSUING ORDER TO DROP URDU FROM REVENUE JOBS, ACCUSES ILTIJA OF 'LIES'

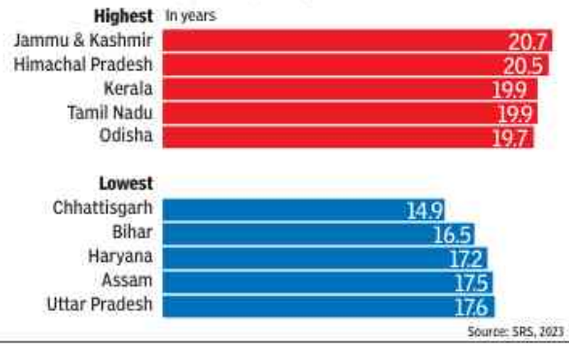
COMMUTERS TAKING GANGA EXPRESSWAY WON'T HAVE TO PAY TOLL TILL MAY 13: YOGI

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

At 60, Indians can expect to live 18 more years on average

In 2023, a 60-year-old Indian had another 18.4 years to live on an average. But figures varied widely across the country — from 20.7 years in Jammu & Kashmir to 14.9 in Chhattisgarh

Life expectancy at age 60 (2019-2023)



Source: SRS, 2023

W Asia conflict a 'war', govt firms can invoke 'force majeure' clause

In Major Relief, Entities Can Extend Contractual Timelines By 2-4 Months

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The West Asia conflict should be treated as a "war" to invoke the 'force majeure' clause in public contracts where obligations have been impacted by disruptions, the finance ministry has said.

It has allowed govt entities to extend contractual timelines by two to four months, without penalties, in cases where supply chain disruptions have affected execution.

Industry executives said this would be a major relief for companies and contractors in sectors like defence, drone manufacturing, fertiliser and chemicals.

The office memorandum issued by the department of expenditure says, "In cases where disruptions arising from the prevailing West Asia situation have directly affected or consequentially impacted contractual obligations (for good and services contracts, construction/ works contracts with govt agencies), the procuring entities may invoke 'force majeure'."

The clause allows relief in extraordinary circumstances beyond human control, such as war, and once invoked, it "frees parties from contractual liability and obligation".

The ministry specified that relief can be provided only in cases where companies or contractors had to complete obligations on or after Feb 27. The invocation of 'force majeure' would be considered valid only where parties were not in default as on Feb 27, it said. The department said the clause wouldn't absolve the non-performances that were not directly attributable to the West Asia situation.

The period of extension will be given on a case-by-case basis by the procuring entity.

Welcoming the decision, the president of Drone Federation India, Smit Shah, said on X, "Many Indian drone companies have govt contracts, and because of the ongoing conflict in West Asia, their supplies and deliveries have been badly affected. They were worried about heavy penalties for delays that were not even their fault... (The govt decision) gives relief to our member companies and sends a strong message that govt stands with the Indian industry during difficult times."

iStock

The clause allows relief in extraordinary circumstances beyond human control, such as war, and frees parties from contractual liability

After Rahul's attack, govt defends Great Nicobar project

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt on Friday released a detailed clarification on the Great Nicobar Project, calling it a strategic initiative to strengthen India's presence in the Andaman Sea. It said the project sought to "balance port-led growth with calibrated environmental safeguards" while keeping protection of indigenous communities at the core of its overall planning.

The clarification, in the form of an FAQ, came after leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday slammed the Rs 81,000 crore initiative, describing it as a serious threat to both the environment and indigenous communities.

Govt said the project was of "strategic, defence, and national importance, undertaken after due diligence and careful consideration".

"The project will substantially strengthen India's presence in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Asia, enhance maritime and defence capabilities, and integrate the island with global trade and logistics networks. It will also establish a major international transshipment terminal," it said.

Govt said the potential ecological impacts of the project had been comprehensively identified and assessed, and were being managed through a robust environmental impact assessment process.

On protecting tribal communities, govt said, "All statutory procedures and policy safeguards... have been duly complied with... Necessary consultations were undertaken with competent authorities and domain experts... in line with the Jarawa Policy, 2004 and Shompen Policy, 2015. The Empowered Committee... has categorically ensured that the interests of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups... will not be adversely affected."

Govt added, "The project has also secured a no objection certificate from the ministry of tribal affairs, with due adherence to the Forest Rights Act, 2006."

iStock

Govt said the project sought to 'balance port-led growth' with environmental safeguards

Cocaine worth ₹1,745cr seized in big NCB bust

Mumbai: Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has busted a transnational drug supply network syndicate with the seizure of 349kg of cocaine, valued at Rs 1,745 crore, reports **Ahmed Ali**.

NCB said 'Operation White Strike' followed over six months of intelligence gathering, surveillance and inter-agency coordination. Acting on inputs, multiple teams launched coordinated strikes in the Kalamboli–Bhiwandi corridor across Navi Mumbai and Thane, a press release by PIB said.

Officials declined to identify the country of origin, but said India typically recorded annual cocaine seizures of 200–300kg.

The first seizure took place near KWC Warehousing Complex in Kalamboli, where officials intercepted a car and recovered 136kg of cocaine concealed inside cricket pads and gloves packed in cartons. Based on the driver's interrogation, officials traced a larger consignment to a warehouse in Bhiwandi. A raid led to the recovery of an additional 213kg of cocaine. Officials said the contraband was concealed within the inner cavities of imported machinery.

"We are resolved to ruthlessly crush the narcotics cartel," Union home minister Amit Shah tweeted.

AI to make food optional, help cut ticket price

New Delhi: Air India is planning to make meals optional on its domestic and short international (under 2-hour) flights, **reports Saurabh Sinha**.

Once this "unbundling" rolls out in the next month or two, passengers opting out of meals could have upwards of Rs 250 shaved off their ticket price.

While this move is "on the anvil", say people in the know, the airline is looking at several other unprecedented measures to fly through the severe cost-revenue turbulence caused by the West Asia conflict.

Air India is looking at unbundling lounge access for business class passengers. On an average, lounge operators charge Rs 1,100-1,400 per user at metro airports and Rs 600-700 at non-metros.

"From Day One, Air India has had meals bundled in its ticket price. With aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price rising and the rupee crashing since Feb 28, ticket prices are going up. India is a price-sensitive market and raising fares beyond a point leads to a fall in traffic. This has led to the rethink," said people in the know. Several airlines globally have over the past few years unbundled their onboard offerings.

'Everything will be alright': Shah to Ladakh leaders ahead of talks

Naseer.Ganai
@timesofindia.com

Srinagar: Environmentalist and Leh Apex Body (LAB) member Sonam Wangchuk met Union home minister Amit Shah in Leh along with a clutch of other leaders from the UT late Thursday, with the interaction largely focused on Buddha and spirituality.

Shah was on a two-day Ladakh visit to attend an international exposition of Lord Buddha's relics. He urged the leaders "to keep faith in Lord Buddha" and said "everything will be alright".

"The meeting was called by the home minister. During the interaction, he said Ladakh-related issues would be discussed on May 22 in a (MHA) sub-committee meeting. He said his current visit is purely spiritual and that he is here to pay obeisance to Buddha's relics," said former Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) chief executive Gyalson, who attended the meeting along with LAB co-chairman Tsering Dorje Lakrook and Ladakh MP Mohmad Haneefa.

Gyalson said Shah asked them to approach the May 22 meeting with "an open mind". "If we reach a consensus, it will be taken up in detail and concluded in a high-powered committee meeting later," the LAHDC chief added. Lakrook said several demands were raised during the 30-minute meeting, including urging Shah to chair a high-powered committee of the MHA on the talks. The home minister declined, saying he was currently on a spiritual journey, Lakrook added.

Amit Shah pays respects to the holy relics in Leh on Friday

I told you hike will come after polls: Rahul

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress MP **Rahul Gandhi** on Friday called the Rs 993 increase in commercial LPG cylinder prices an "election bill", adding he had warned that a fuel hike would follow the assembly polls. He said the next rise would be in petrol and diesel prices.

Rahul said the burden on dhabas, hotels, bakeries and sweet shops would "inevitably impact your plate as well".

Party general secretary KC Venugopal said the Modi govt had not wasted any time after the polls and BJP's concern for the public's suffering was limited to elections.

ACP-rank officer held for flashing 9-yr-old in Mumbai

Mumbai: The Worli police in Central Mumbai recently arrested an assistant commissioner of police-rank officer for allegedly flashing a nine-year-old girl in a garden, reports **Mateen Hafeez**. The accused was sent to judicial custody. Police said they arrested the accused soon after getting the complaint. "The incident took place on April 23," said a police officer.

The accused is attached to the wireless department at the DG office as deputy superintendent of police. His family lives in Nagpur and he was posted in Mumbai last year,"

There are no CCTV cameras at the spot where the alleged crime took place.

Govt facilities account for majority of deliveries

▶ Continued from page 1

Govt facilities still account for the majority of deliveries overall, especially in rural areas, while private hospitals play a larger role in urban India.

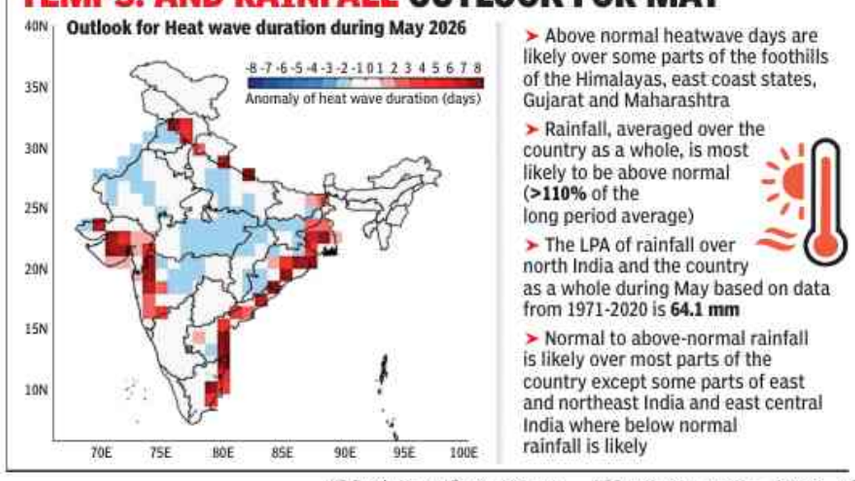
Institutional deliveries have also risen further—from 90.5% to 95.6% in rural areas and from 96.1% to 97.8% in urban areas between 2017–18 and 2025, reflecting steady improvement in access.

Maternal care coverage is nearly universal during pregnancy, with around 98% of women receiving ante-natal care, but drops after childbirth, with post-natal care at 92% in rural and 95% in urban areas. The gap, though small, highlights weaker follow-up care despite strong gains in access during pregnancy.

The findings suggest that while India has largely ensured safe institutional deliveries, affordability and continuity of care remain key challenges, particularly for families relying on private healthcare.

IMD: Max temp to be normal to below normal in many areas

TEMPS. AND RAINFALL OUTLOOK FOR MAY



- Above normal heatwave days are likely over some parts of the foothills of the Himalayas, east coast states, Gujarat and Maharashtra
- Rainfall, averaged over the country as a whole, is most likely to be above normal (**>110%** of the long period average)
- The LPA of rainfall over north India and the country as a whole during May based on data from 1971-2020 is **64.1 mm**
- Normal to above-normal rainfall is likely over most parts of the country except some parts of east and northeast India and east central India where below normal rainfall is likely

▶ Continued from page 1

Above normal' rainfall during the month is attributed to increased frequency of western disturbances (WDs) and thunderstorm activities due to favourable troughs and upper air cyclonic circulations. All these will bring down the day temperatures during the month to 'below normal' level in certain regions.

"Maximum (day) temperatures are expected to be normal to below normal across many parts of the country. However, above-normal temperatures are likely in many parts of southern peninsular India, some parts of the northeast, and northwest India," said Mohapatra.

He said the minimum (night) temperatures are, on the other hand, expected to be above normal across many parts of the country. "However, many areas of northwest India, along with some parts of central India and adjoining areas of peninsular India and southern parts of northeast India, are likely to experience normal to below-normal minimum temperatures," said Met chief Mohapatra. The southwest (summer) monsoon is, meanwhile, expected to arrive over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands around May 14-20.

Serious allegations; black day for democracy if true: LoP

▶ Continued from page 1

Opposition members were not present when the motion was taken up by voice vote.

Earlier in the day, there was some back and forth between Mann and Khaira after the CM took exception to Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira using a mobile phone when the Speaker was reading out a resolution proposing a hike in minimum wages on Labour Day.

Things reached a flashpoint when CM Mann was leaving the House. Khaira stood up and alleged that Mann had come to the assembly in an inebriated state. The chief minister turned back, and a heated exchange followed before Mann left the Assembly.

Leader of opposition **Partap Singh Bajwa** called Khaira's accusation "very serious", and "if true, a black day for democracy". Finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema termed the allegation false and accused Khaira of "misleading" his own party to divert attention from a land grab case against him.

Dogs gnaw at body of baby abandoned in Telangana

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Residents of a housing colony in Jadcherla town in Telangana's Mahabubnagar district on Friday morning came upon the body of a newborn girl, who was attacked by stray dogs. Police said it is likely that the newborn's parents abandoned her and that the child had been dead for at least a couple of days. Officers said the body was found in some bushes by the internal roads in the colony. Children playing cricket nearby spotted it while looking for their ball and alerted elders who called in the police.

"We suspect the newborn was abandoned at a hillock nearby and the dogs dragged the body into the colony. Our investigation suggests the child was dead by the time the dogs got there. We don't believe that the dogs killed her," B Kamalakar, SHO of Jadcherla PS, said. "The newborn's body is intact. There are dog-bite marks all over her body, though."

Police registered a case under sections of the BNSS related to suspicious death, suicide, or accidents. Police collected records from nearby hospitals to verify details of recent births and are trying to zero in on the newborn's parents.

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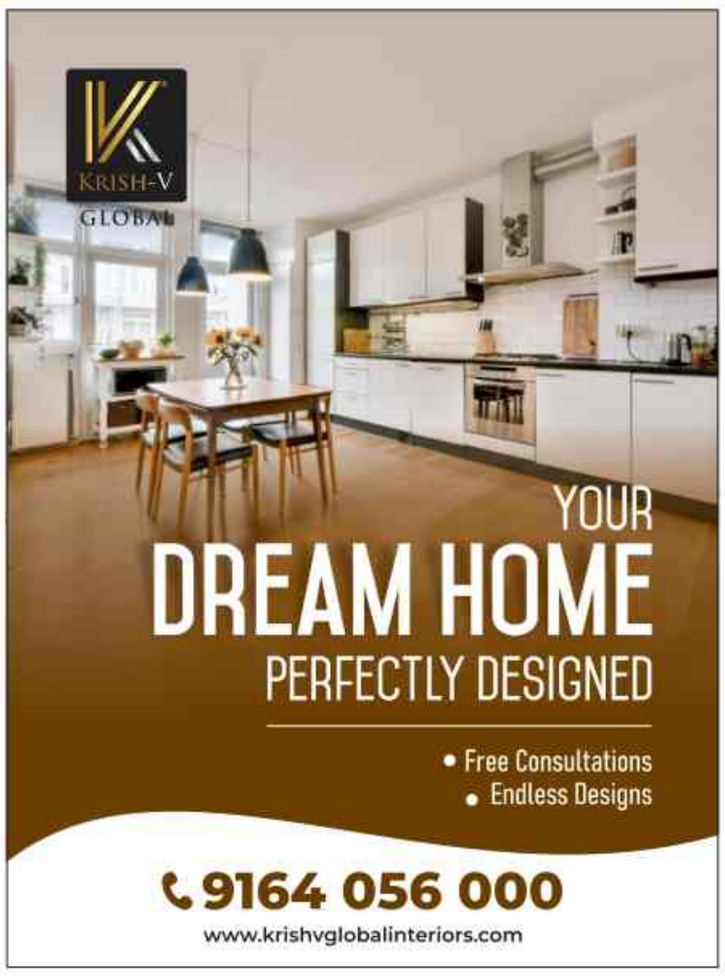

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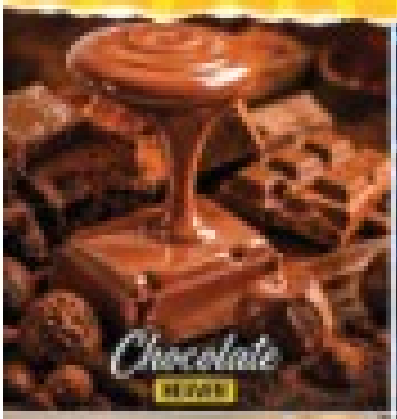

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K'taka launches Spacetech CoE, plans constellation of satellites

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka Thursday launched a state-backed Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Space Technology in Bengaluru, announcing plans to develop a constellation of satellites aimed at meeting end-user and societal needs, as the state seeks to build a stronger ecosystem around India's expanding private space sector.

TOI

K'taka IT minister Priyank Kharge takes a tour of the centre Thursday

The initiative, called the CoE SpaceTech Foundation, has been set up by the Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) in collaboration with industry body SIA-India.

The launch comes amid increasing private participation in the space sector following reforms introduced by the Centre over the past few years. Bengaluru, which houses Isro headquarters and several aerospace and defence firms, has also emerged as a hub for private space startups.

Karnataka IT minister Priyank Kharge said the govt would hold consultations with industry stakeholders on the need for shared technical infrastructure and common facilities for companies working in the sector.

He also indicated govt support for developing a satellite constellation for societal applications — an intention that underscored the CoE's stated theme of "Space Tech for Societal Impact."

As per a statement issued here, the CoE would focus on applied research, talent development, startup incubation and industry partnerships. Areas identified for future work include agriculture, climate applications, disaster management, biotechnology, connectivity and national security.

"We aim to leverage space technologies to address challenges across agriculture, climate, disaster management, connectivity, pharma, life sciences, and national security. Our vision is to position Karnataka as a global reference hub for space technology through talent, innovation, incubation, and collaboration," Govindrajan, director, CoE SpaceTech Foundation, said.

RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A Statutory Authority of Ministry of Railways, Government of India)

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DGM/HR
011-23232854

Head Office Address: Rail Land Development Authority, Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konnectus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-110002

New material may boost aluminium batteries, cut costs

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In the race to find safer and cheaper alternatives to lithium-ion batteries, scientists in Bengaluru may have found a promising step forward, by fixing a problem that has long held aluminium batteries back.

A research team led by Kavita Pandey of the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), a department of science and technology (DST) institute in Bengaluru, working in collaboration with researchers from Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence in Greater Noida, has developed a new composite material that makes aluminium batteries more stable and longer-lasting. "Aluminium batteries have attracted attention because aluminium is widely available, inexpensive, and can store more charge per atom than lithium. But there has been a major hurdle: the materials inside these batteries tend to break down quickly. Over repeated charging, they crack or dissolve into the liquid inside the battery, causing it to lose power," DST pointed out.

It added to tackle this, researchers focused on a commonly used battery material called vanadium oxide. While effective at storing energy, it tends to dissolve in water-based aluminium batteries, reducing battery life.

The team's solution was to combine vanadium oxide with another advanced material called MXene — a highly conductive, ultra-thin substance. The result is a composite that acts like a support structure, holding the battery material together while also helping electricity and ions move more smoothly.

This seemingly simple change made a measurable difference. Tests showed that the new material reduced the amount of vanadium dissolving into the battery liquid by more than four times compared to the original material.

As a result, the battery retained more than 73% of its capacity after 100 charge cycles, and 59% even after 500 cycles. In comparison, conventional versions degrade much faster.

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Panchkula Haryana - 134109
Government of Haryana

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited (HAICL) and Haryana Dairy Development Federation Ltd., (HDDCF) having its strong retail network of approximately 5000 retail sale outlets of FMCG products in rural and urban areas, invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible entities (Companies / LLPs / Firms / Consortia / FPOs / Cooperatives) for setting up a Kinnow Juice and Fruits/Vegetable processing Plant at Sirsa (Haryana) under PPP mode.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Land	3 Acres land of HDDCF on lease basis
Capacity	3 TPH
Concession Period	33 Years (extendable)
Kinnow Processing	Mandatory
Strong Raw material base	(Kinnow Belt)
High Grown Potential	In Indian Market and Export Opportunities

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD EOI INFORMATION

Facilitation from HAICL and HDDCF
- Access to applicable Central and state govt schemes, subsidies and incentives.
- Coordination with the department of horticulture, agriculture and allied state agencies and liaison with the local authorities
- Marketing facilitation:
  -Leverage to Retail network of Har-Hith and Vita booth network
  -Institutional linkages for B2B and institutional sales

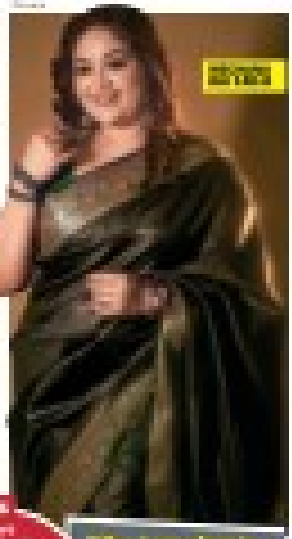
Interested parties having relevant experience in food processing/ juice processing/ allied agro processing industries and adequate technical and financial capacity may submit their EOI in a sealed envelope superscribed as "EOI for Kinnow Juice & Fruits/ Vegetables Processing Plant" addressed to Managing Director, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bays No. 15-20, Sector-4, Panchkula, Haryana - 134109 or through email haicpkl@gmail.com on or before 15.05.2026 up to 5:00 PM.

Purpose of EOI is to obtain structured feedback from prospective private partners. This is a non-binding EOI. RFP will be issued subsequently. Complete details of EOI are placed at website: haic.co.in, which can also be downloaded from the QR code.

For Addressing Queries/clarifications:
Stakeholders interested for a separate meeting (physical or virtual) may also request the same with prior appointment from HAICL, Panchkula (Contact No. 9356055236, email id:- vitaindia@gmail.com).
A pre EOI meeting will be held on 11/05/2026 at 12:00 Noon through VC link (meet.google.com/qej-qkcs-xzt).

MANAGING DIRECTOR, HAICL

'It's a blessing to share the screen with my idol'



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Crew 'abandoned' sinking cruise: Survivor

MP CM Orders Probe As Toll Rises To 9

Siddharth Pandey | TNN

Bargi (Jabalpur): A survivor of Thursday's cruise tragedy in a reservoir of Jabalpur's Bargi Dam on the Narmada river has alleged the boat's pilot and crew abandoned passengers moments before the vessel sank, leaving them to fend for themselves in rapidly worsening conditions.

Advocate Roshan Anand Verma, who was travelling with nine family members, said the weather was calm when they boarded the cruise. However, as the boat reached the middle of the reservoir, strong winds arose suddenly, generating large waves that began striking the vessel. Then, water started entering the boat, triggering panic among passengers.

Verma said no lifejackets were provided to them at the start of the journey. As the situation worsened, the pilot and crew jumped into the water, causing chaos among those on board who were left without instructions.

Acting quickly, Verma said, he rushed to the lower deck, retrieved lifejackets, and began distributing them. However, the boat sank rapidly, leaving many passengers with little time to put them on properly.

Verma said all members of his family survived.

Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav has ordered a high-level probe into the tragedy as the toll rose to nine and six people remained missing. Yadav visited the site on Friday. There was no confirmation yet on the total number of people on board even as rescue teams continued search operations. Cruise pilot Mahesh Patel, helper Chhotelal Gond and ticket counter in-charge Brijendra have been removed from service, while Sunil Maravi, the manager of Hotel Maikal Resort and Boat Club Bargi, has been suspended.

Mahesh said the weather changed suddenly. "Safety measures were in place, but the storm was severe. The cruise went out of control and there was no time to react," he said.

Officials said 28 people have been rescued so far. Bargi city SP Anjul Ayank Mishra said officers relied on CCTV footage from the entry gate to estimate numbers. Based on this, around 43 people are believed to have boarded the cruise. However, tickets were issued to only 29 passengers. Officials suspect that several people boarded without tickets, which has made it difficult to confirm how many are still unaccounted for.

The accident took place about 300m from shore. Officials said strong winds of up to 74kmph hit the area at the time. The vessel began to list towards one side and sank quickly. Rescue began soon after the incident. Divers are continuing to search the reservoir.

IANS

Wreckage of the boat being retrieved from Bagri Dam on Friday

Bridge workers jumped into dam, saved dozen lives

As the dam's waters began swallowing the vessel, a group of unheralded heroes plunged into choppy waters to save lives. MP govt announced a reward of Rs 51,000 for each rescuer. Around 35 workers, engaged in a project under Jal Jeevan Mission nearby, dropped their tools and rushed in before professional rescuers arrived. They jumped in one after another, forming a human chain. With no safety gear or training, they relied on instinct, pulling people out with ropes and bare hands. TNN

Woman found clutching 4-yr-old in final embrace

Bargi: The finding of eighth and ninth bodies brought search operations to a momentary standstill. They were of a woman clutching her four-year-old child in her arms in a single lifejacket, a final, unsuccessful attempt by a mother to save her son. Marina Massey, 39, and Trishaan had travelled from Delhi on vacation, **reports Siddharth Pandey**.

"When we brought them out, they were still holding each other," a rescuer said, describing a moment that has since come to define the human cost of the tragedy.

Officials believe that as the vessel destabilised and began drowning, the mother made a rapid, instinctive decision, pulling her son into her own lifejacket in an attempt to maximise his chances of survival. The two were inside the lower cabin, a confined space that likely flooded within minutes.

Officials said it remains unclear why no dedicated lifejackets for kids were present. Her husband Pradeep Massey and daughter Siya were rescued.

Trapped under upturned boat for 3 hrs: 70-year-old

Bargi: Riyaz Hussain Sayyed (70), a resident of Jabalpur who had boarded the cruise around 5pm with his family, recalls his struggle to stay alive.

"For about 45 minutes, everything was fine," he said. "Then, suddenly, a storm came. The vessel started shaking, slowly at first, and then violently." The pilot tried to steer towards the shore, but the weather deteriorated rapidly. Water started entering the boat. On the lower deck, inside the AC chamber, the situation turned critical within minutes and water levels rose quickly.

"No one had the courage to go out," he said. "Everyone screamed for a while... And then, within five minutes everything became silent." Rescuers pulled out Riyaz after nearly three hours. He had no visible injuries, but the tragedy had already taken a toll. TNN

SC takes note of 'political rivalry'

▶Continued from page 1

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar granted pre-arrest bail to Khera who was apprehending arrest by Assam police which had unsuccessfully tried to take him into custody after Sarma's wife registered an FIR against the spokesperson accusing him of forgery among other things.

KHERA CASE

The court, however, barred Khera from leaving the country without its approval and directed him to cooperate in the investigation and to appear before the police station as and when required and intimated.

Khera had accused Rinki of having obtained citizesnhip of other nations and owning firms overseas. But, Rinki and her spouse dubbed the documents as crude forgeries and filed a complaint against him.

The court noted that as per prosecution the passports purported to be belonging to CM's wife which was displayed by Khera are fake and it was done to defame her and cause harm to their reputation. "Albeit, we can't lose sight of the fact that the CM has made certain unparliamentary remarks against the appellant in many press statements."

"We are of the opinion that while adjudicating an application for anticipatory bail, a careful balance must be struck between the state's interest in ensuring a fair investigation and the individual's fundamental right to personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution, in light of the principles enunciated in Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia (supra). In this context, the criminal process must be applied with objectivity & circumspection so as to ensure that individual liberty is not imperiled by proceedings that may be coloured by political rivalry. We are further of the opinion that allegations and counter-allegations, as apparent in the case, prima facie, appear to be politically motivated and seemingly influenced by such rivalry, rather than disclosing a situation warranting custodial interrogation, and the veracity of allegations can be tested at trial," it said.

Gujarat bizman stays in US illegally for 16 yrs, fined $1.8mn

Ashish.Chauhan
@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: A Gujarati businessman living illegally in the US for 16 years has been fined $1.8 million (around Rs 15 crore) by the department of homeland security (DHS). A notice issued in April under Immigration and Nationality Act says he willfully refused to leave America despite being ordered deported years ago. The penalty has been calculated at $998 (more than Rs 94,000) per day over the period of non-compliance.

He had entered through Mexico in 2010 and was detained shortly after. Though released within weeks, he was served a final removal order the following year. However he allegedly failed to appear before immigration authorities thereafter and continued to reside in the country.

Over the years, he established multiple businesses and brought his wife and two children to the US through similar routes. Two years ago, he applied for a U visa — granted to victims of certain crimes — under which he holds a valid work permit and social security number. The notice says the recipient is neither a US citizen nor legally authorised to stay and accuses him of failing to depart voluntarily, not applying for travel documents and not presenting himself for removal when required.

He has been given 15 days to appeal, failing which the order will be treated as final. It's unclear how paying the penalty will impact his deportation.

Imam thrashed, thrown off train dies; cops start probe after call to wife goes viral

Krishna.Chaudhary
@timesofindia.com

Bareilly: A 35-year-old imam from Bihar, returning home from Urs in Bareilly, died after he was allegedly thrashed by train passengers and was thrown off the coach near Bareilly Cantonment railway station on April 26 night.

Tausif Raza Mazhari's wife, Tabassum Khatoon, said her husband called her around 10.30pm on April 26 informing her that fellow passengers were beating him and accusing him of stealing. Soon, the phone was switched off.

TOI has accessed the autopsy report which mentions five injuries on the face, shoulder and chest. His skull and all ribs were fractured. The report stated that the cause of death was haemorrhagic shock and coma.

Initially, police noted the death as an accident. The imam was identified with the help of his Aadhaar card, and the body was sent for autopsy.

After an audio recording of the call was widely circulated online, police launched a deeper investigation. In the 32-second audio, Mazhari was heard purportedly saying: "Tabassum, call the cops immediately, these people are thrashing me badly."

'NO ONE HELPED'

Tabassum said on Friday, "When I told my husband to seek help from other passengers, he replied that no one came forward to help." SP (City) Manush Pareek said, "The audio is under scrutiny. We have assured the family that an FIR would be lodged."

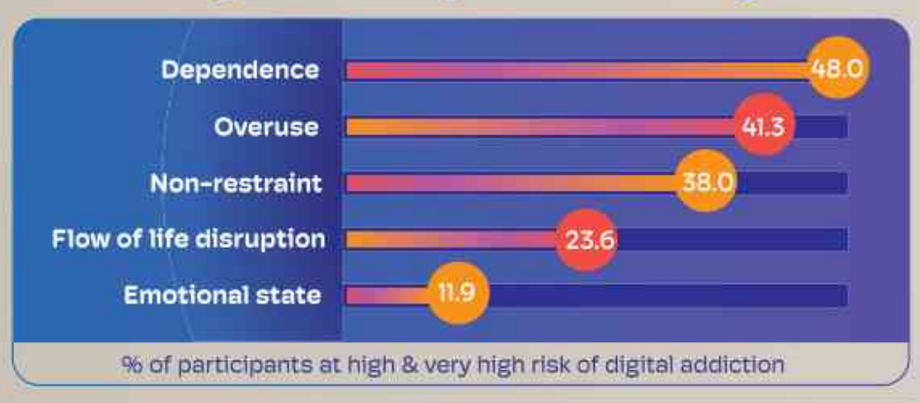
6 of family killed after car crashes into parked truck

Hyderabad: Six members of a family, among them three children, were killed Friday when the car they were travelling in hit a parked truck on Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Shamshabad, **reports Srinath Vudali**. All six of them died on the spot.

A 35-year-old survivor is battling for her life. The family in a WagonR was returning to Hyderabad after visiting a temple when the driver failed to notice the truck parked on the side of the road and crashed into it at high speed, police said.

The truck driver said he was heading to Kurnool with rice bags tied together with ropes. He told cops that since some of the ropes were loose, he had parked the truck to tighten them. Police have filed a case against the truck driver for unauthorised parking.

Are we standing on the edge of a digital dependency crisis?



The results of a recent TOI-CENABH poll provide a window into young India's digital habits. Participants were scored on 5 different dimensions of digital addiction, and it turns out, screen time is just the starting point.

What stands out is how our devices simultaneously lead to heavy dependence and a loss of control in our lives. As India's digital behaviours continue to evolve, so do its challenges.

To know more, read the whole report in today's edition of The Times of India.

Scan the QR to take a scientific psychological assessment of your digital habits.

S.G.I.

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tender & notices

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
SBI Payments has issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Empanelment of Vendor for Conducting Vulnerability Assessment & Penetration Testing (VAPT) of Application. For details please visit the website of SBI Payments: www.sbipayments.com
Any further Addenda, Corrigenda/ Extension of date/clarifications in respect to the above RFQ shall only be posted on SBI Payments website and no separate notification will be issued in newspaper. Sd/-
Place:Mumbai Vice President
Date: 02.05.2026 (Vendor Management)

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAKESH UTTAM CHAND, S/o, Uttam Chand, residing at Bangalore city, Laxmi road, Shanthi Nagar, #35/12, Golden Embassy, 5th Cross, Wilson Garden, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560027, here by declare that Rakesh Bhansali and Rakesh Uttam Chand, both the names belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated: 29.04.2026, before notary Jayalakshmi .C, Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be called in future RAKESH UTTAM CHAND only.

I, Kasturi Das, Daughter of Pradip Kumar Das, aged about 38 years residing at No 34, Apartment No 5, 31st Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore, 560102, declare that Kasturi and Kasturi Das refer to the same person. Henceforth, I will use Kasturi Das for all legal purposes.

I, SHILPA VENKATESH R/o, No.1067/10, 3rd Main Road, M C R Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru- 560040 have changed my name to LATHA VENKATESH vide Affidavit dt. 24.04.2026 sworn before notary Mr. C Srinivas Bengaluru.

I, Amlan Baran Dhirendra Chandra Pal S/O Dhirendra Chandra Pal born on 20/06/1971 residing at Bengaluru, have changed my name to Amlan Baran Pal vide Affidavit dated 29/04/2026 at Bengaluru.

I Tishya Aich S/O, Samir Aich R/o 38/a, Brundavana Badavane, Dasarahalli, Ha Farm Post, Rachenhalli, Bangalore 560024 have changed my name to Tishyo Aich.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: LOKESH.G.E, S/o Eshwarappa R/o: Gundigere Villege, Hulikal post, Magadi taluk, Ramanagara District, I have lost the Sale Deed Documents Bearing no.Dated 28/11/2011 No: NMG-1-06754-2011-12. CD No. NMGD195 Mother Deed of Site No.88, Khata No.462, Dated 28/04/2026 while travelling. Police Complaint no. 2180625/2026 dt: 30-04-2026. If anyone found pls inform us or handover to the nearby police station. Moh: 9901979430

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
MSIL House, No. 36, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560 052
Ph.No.: 080-22264021-25
No.: MSIL/HO/01/2026-27 Date: 30.04.2026

Short-Term E-Tender Notification(Call-4)

(Through e-portal) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Tender is invited from Reputed Firms/Companies for the proposals for Implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software for MSIL.

Last date and time for submitting Tender is on 11.05.2026 before 5.00 PM. For more details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The profile of the firm along with the requisite supporting documents should be uploaded in the prescribed format in the e-portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Manual applications shall not be accepted. For further details contact website.

The Company reserves the right to amend or modify the eligibility criteria as deemed fit to suit its requirement.

For MYSORE SALES INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Place: Bengaluru Sd/-
Date: 30.04.2026 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Engineer-In-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(CS & DCW)/TA/391/2026-27		Date: 30.04.2026
1.	Work of providing, Supply and laying 700mm & 400mm dia MS Pipeline in place of leaky 700mm & 400mm dia CI feeder line from Bharath Petrol Bunk to AKS Convention Hall under AEE(UFW) sub-division	₹ 366.33 Lakhs / ₹ 6.49 Lakhs
IFT No:BWSSB/EIC/ACE(CS & DCW)/TA/393/2026-27		Date: 30.04.2026
2.	Work of providing, Supply and laying 700mm & 400mm dia MS Pipeline in place of leaky 700mm & 400mm dia CI feeder line from Cantonment Railway station to Bharath Petrol Bunk in cantonment road under AEE(UFW) sub-division	₹ 358.74 Lakhs / ₹ 5.38 Lakhs

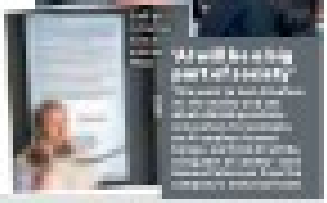
For all the above Works, last date for uploading of completed tender documents is on 16-05-2026 upto 16:00 hrs. The Bids will be Opened on 18-05-2026 after 16:30 hrs. Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief

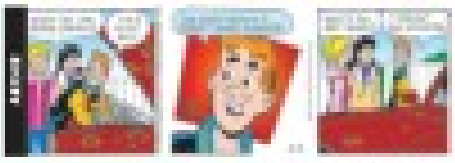
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/SI/441/2026-27

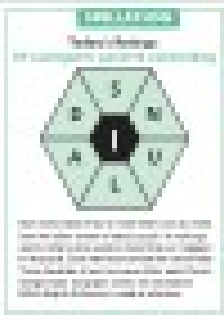
Dior's pop-up in China blends couture with confectionery

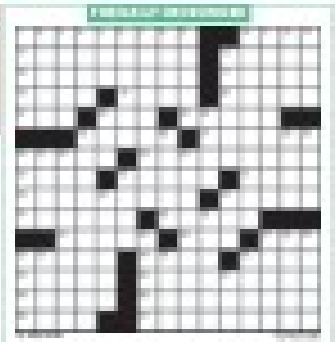
A cake you can walk into

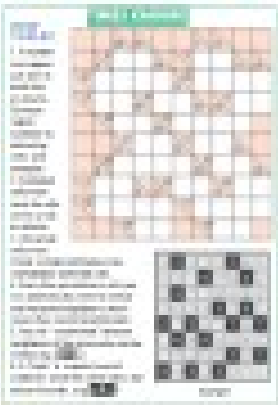
AI calls the shots at this Stockholm next-gen cafe

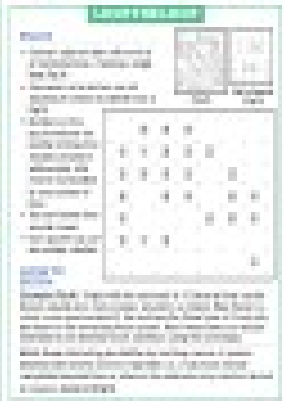


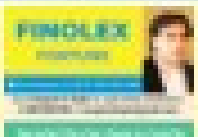


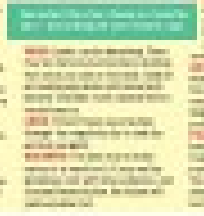












Spl SC bench to hear today TMC plea on counting staff

Order To Include Central Staff Arbitrary & Discriminatory, Says Party

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Trinamool Congress on Friday moved Supreme Court, challenging the additional chief electoral officer's decision mandating "at least one among the counting supervisor and counting assistant at each counting table shall be a central govt/central PSU employee" for counting of votes for the recently concluded assembly elections.

Trinamool said the poll body has already laid down a comprehensive and exhaustive framework governing the counting of votes

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

The party sought an urgent hearing, as the counting is scheduled for Monday (May 4), and SC decided to list the case on Saturday. A special bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi has been constituted to hear the case. The party moved SC after its plea was rejected by Calcutta HC.

In an appeal filed through advocate Sanchit Garga, Trinamool alleged that the decision was "arbitrary, without jurisdiction, discriminatory, and creating a reasonable apprehension of bias, given that its principal political opponent, the BJP, is the governing party at the Centre and thus exercises administrative control over central govt/PSU employees".

It said this "sudden and selective change" in procedure, applicable only to Bengal and not to other states where elections were held simultaneously, "vitiates the principles of a free and fair election".

The petitioner said that EC has already laid down a comprehensive and exhaustive framework governing such a process under the Handbook for Counting Agents, 2023, which provides for the presence of micro-observers, who are invariably central govt/central PSU employees, at each counting table to ensure transparency and integrity of the process.

"Despite the existence of such safeguards, the communication introduces an additional and disproportionate requirement mandating the presence of central govt/central PSU employees as counting supervisors or counting assistants over and above the micro-observers already present from the central govt/central PSU employees. The said requirement has been imposed without disclosing any objective criteria, material basis, or transparent reasoning and is purportedly founded on vague and unsubstantiated apprehensions regarding irregularities in the counting process," the petition said.

The effect of such a directive is "to significantly alter the composition of personnel at the counting tables by disproportionately increasing the presence of individuals under the control of the central govt without any corresponding representation or balancing mechanism. This creates a reasonable apprehension of bias, undermines the neutrality of the counting process, and disturbs the level playing field" between contesting political parties.

"Moreover, the timing of the said communication, having been clandestinely issued to all the district electoral officers, a month after the announcement of the date of elections and immediately before the commencement of the first phase of elections in Bengal gives rise to a serious apprehension of mala fides and indicates an attempt to interfere with the conduct of free and fair elections at a crucial stage of the electoral process," it said.

Security protocol is sufficient, says CEO

▶Continued from page 1

The second flashpoint was Khudiram Anushilan Kendra in central Kolkata, where central armed police forces had to drag Trinamool and BJP workers away from each other to prevent a full-blown clash. Joint commissioner of police (traffic) Rupesh Kumar said additional forces had since been deployed at both trouble spots.

All surrounding roads were sealed, guardrails installed and access restricted to personnel carrying EC-issued QR-coded IDs. Lord Sinha Road remains entirely shut to civilians. Election Commission issued a statement citing Calcutta HC's order to the civil and police administration to strictly deal with unlawful activities. Statewide, 700 companies of central forces have been deployed for "stability and unrest prevention", EC said. All counting centres have three layers of security, supplemented by special patrolling in vulnerable zones.

Prohibitory orders have also been clamped around counting centres at Hastings House complex, APC Polytechnic College, St Thomas Boys' High School, Ballygunge Govt High School and David Hare Training College in Kolkata. Chief electoral officer Manoj Agarwal told reporters after inspecting a counting centre in Purulia that the security protocol in place for counting day would prove "sufficient" to ensure the electoral exercise is hitch-free.

EC has set up a helpline – 18003450008 – for complaints, assuring confidentiality. Grievances, if any, can also be emailed to wbfreeandfairpolls@gmail.com.

EC orders repolling in 15 booths in two Bengal seats

Kolkata: Election Commission on Friday ordered repolling in 15 booths across two assembly constituencies in South 24 Parganas following reports of irregularities during the second phase of Bengal polls. Of the 15 polling stations, 11 are in Magrahat West and four in Diamond Harbour.

The repolling is scheduled for Saturday (May 2) from 7am to 6pm, it said in a notification.

Allegations of irregularities led to demands for repolling in 77 booths across four assembly constituencies. According to sources, special observer Subrata Gupta, who visited Diamond Harbour on Thursday, had recommended repolling in 11 booths in Magrahat West, four in Diamond Harbour, and 30 in Falta.

"During scrutiny, several disturbing findings came to light, including allegations that CCTV cameras were switched off in multiple polling stations, preventing real-time monitoring from the control room due to network disruptions," sources said. TNN

Strongroom 'intrusion': BJP, TMC trade charges

TNN & AGENCIES

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress and BJP traded allegations over EVM strongroom security Friday, with a delegation from CM Mamata Banerjee's party meeting Election Commission officials to demand answers on alleged CCTV blackouts and sealed rooms being opened without party representatives. BJP dismissed the complaints as a desperate search for "excuses" by a party headed for defeat, setting the stage for a tense May 4 counting day.

The sharpest charge came from TMC's Shyampukur candidate Shashi Panja, who told reporters after meeting EC officials that her party had "reason to be suspicious" about people caught on camera entering strongrooms at central Kolkata's Khudiram Anusilan Kendra.

"In footage from camera No. 17, we noticed people inside strongrooms that had been sealed in the presence of our agents. If you are opening the door, all parties need to be told about this," Panja said.

Panja questioned EC's statement that all parties had been emailed about postal ballot sorting scheduled for Thursday at 4pm.

Panja, mayor Firhad Hakim and councillor Ashim Bose also sought from EC a comprehensive report on alleged CCTV malfunctions in strongrooms across Bengal, unabridged and unedited recordings with detailed logs of all interruption periods and unrestricted access for authorised representatives to surveillance feeds.

The visit to the EC office followed a meeting between CM Mamata and TMC's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee at her Kalighat home. She had camped at the Bhowanipore EVM strongroom the previous evening, triggering a protest by BJP that culminated in an altercation with TMC members and supporters.

Leader of the opposition Suvendu Adhikari, BJP's candidate for Bhowanipore, posted a CCTV grab of the area outside the Sakhawat Memorial School strongroom in south Kolkata on X, insisting his election agent and advocate Suryanil Das had kept Mamata "under strict surveillance so that she couldn't resort to dishonest means". He visited the strongroom Friday evening, terming it "routine work" that did not need cameras following him.

Miscreants torch TVK campaign office

Trichy: An election campaign office of actor-turned-politician Vijay's TVK in Srirangam assembly constituency of district was torched by miscreants on Friday. The thatched shed was in Kamanayakkanpalayam village. On seeing the flames around 2.30am, villagers tried to douse them, but the shed was gutted. A large banner promoting TVK's Srirangam candidate S Ramesh, was also torn. TNN

ADMISSION NOTICE

Common Entrance Test-2026 For Admission at

INSTITUTE	COURSES
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) (PDUNIPPD) 4, Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi-110002 Website: https://pdunippd.nic.in, E-mail: cetpdunippd2026@gmail.com	• BPT • BOT • BPO
Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (DIVYANGJAN), Cuttack (SVNIRTAR) Olatpur, PO- Bairoi, Cuttack, Odisha - 754010 Website: https://svnirtar.nic.in, E-mail: nirtar@nic.in	• BPT • BOT • BPO • BASLP
National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), Kolkata (NILD) B.T. Road, Bonhooghly, Kolkata – 700090 website : https://nild.nic.in, E-mail : nild@nic.in	• BPT • BOT • BPO • BASLP
National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (DIVYANGJAN), Chennai (NIEPMD) East Coast Road, Muttukadu, Kovalam Post Chennai-603112, Website: www.niepmd.tn.nic.in, E-mail: niepmd@gmail.com	• BPT • BOT • BASLP
Ali Yavar Jung National Institute of Speech & Hearing Disabilities (Divyangjan), Mumbai (AYJNISHD(D) K.C. Marg, Bandra (W) Reclamation Mumbai - 400 050 Website: http://ayjnishd.nic.in, E-mail: ayjnishh-mum@nic.in	• BASLP
Composite Regional Centre,Secundrabad Manovikas Nagar, Bowenpally, Secunderabad, Telangana – 500009.	• BASLP
Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, (DIVYANGJAN), Guwahati (CRCSRE) Guwahati Medical College Hospital Campus Post Office Indrapur, GMC Hospital Rd, Bhangagarh, Guwahati, Assam-781032 Website: crcguwahati.nic.in	• BASLP
Composite Regional Centre, Patna Sheikhpura, (Old Dharamshala), Near Nursing College, Patna-800014 Website: https://crcpatna.nic.in, E-mail :crcpatna@rediffmail.com	• BPO

Starting date of online publication of Information Brochure & App
Closing date of online receipt of Application form
Date of Entrance Test

For Details Log On to pdunippd.nic.in

All Concerned may please note

Director,
PDUNIPPD,New Delhi

CBC 38103/12/0001/2627

Annexure-I

NO. NFSC/ACAD-BE/111(B-1)-2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE, NAGPUR

ADVERTISEMENT NO.1

33rd BATCH OF 1st YEAR B.TECH (FIRE ENGINEERING) – 2026-27

Applications are invited for admission into **33rd Batch of 1st Year B.Tech (Fire Engineering)** for the **Academic Year 2026-27** in the prescribed proforma uploaded on the website www.nfscnagpur.nic.in

The Admission will be purely on the basis of JEE CRL Ranking. Further information and details are available on website www.nfscnagpur.nic.in

CBC 19135/11/0001/2627 **DIRECTOR**

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka State Mental Health Authority
Health and Family Welfare Services, 4th floor, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023
Email: Ksmha1@gmail.com

No: KSMHA/EST/10/2025-26 (E-1800479) Date: 19/04/2026.

Notification

Walk-In Interview for one post under Karnataka State Mental Health Authority.

Karnataka State Mental Health Authority (KSMHA) invites eligible candidate for Walk-in-interview for the post of Programme Consultant. The positions are temporary and purely on a contractual Basis. Walk-in-interview has been scheduled on 12/05/2026 @ 10 am in the office of Director, HFW and Member Secretary, KSMHA, 6th Floor. Arogya Soudha, Magadi 1st cross, Bengaluru-560023.

- **Designations :** Programme Consultant
- **No. of Posts :** 01
- **Essential Qualification :** MD Psychiatry/DPM in Psychiatry or DNB in Psychiatry or MD in Community Medicine.
- **Experience Required :** 03 years.
- **Experience Desirable :** 03 years' experience in Mental health or any other public health program
- **Age limit :** 40
- **Consolidated salary per Month :** 1,10,000/-

Note:

1. Speaking. Reading. Writing in Kannada & English Language.
2. Proficiency in Computer i.e. MS word, Excel & power point
3. No TA/DA will admissible for attending is preferable.
4. Candidate with similar past experience is preferable.
5. For any queries contact 080-29559040 during officer hours only.
6. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all applications and cancel the notification at any stage of recruitment without assigning any reasons thereof.
7. Full time course is mandatory and Course must be completed from recognized university.
8. Candidates should bring all the original documents/ certificates and self-attested copies (XEROX) and a copy of latest updated CV, latest passport size Photo and valid ID proof (Adhar Card/PAN/DL/Voter ID)

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer,
Karnataka State Mental Health Authority,
and Commissioner,
Health & Family Welfare Services, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/351/AKAR/2026-27

National Dairy Development Board
PB No. 40, Anand, Gujarat-388001, Tel: 02692-260 148/149/160 Fax: 02692-260 159
Website: http://www.nddb.coop, Email: purchase@nddb.coop

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTREST (REOI)

NDDB invites eligible companies/firms, to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for the following assignment:

Sr. No.	Description of REOI	Event Start / Close Date	EOI submission / opening date & time
I	To establish use of Biometrics for Animal (Bovine) identification. **(REOI No. NDDB:PUR:NDLM:REOI:BI)**	02.05.26/ 16.05.26	16.05.26, 15:00 hrs. / 16.05.26, 15:30 hrs.

For further details pertaining to REOI and for downloading the document, please visit this website: **www.nddb.coop**. For any clarification please contact **Group Head (Purchase), NDDB, Anand-388001.**
NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on NDDB website.

INVEST UP
2nd, 4th & 6th Floor, A-Block, PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226 010 (U.P.), 91 522-3129570 & 3117976
E-mail: info@investup.org.in | Website: https://invest.up.gov.in/

ADVT No.: 78/Admin/IUP/2025-26 **Dated: 01 May, 2026**

Applications are invited in prescribed format from eligible & experienced candidates for the following posts. Applications will be accepted on Invest UP's website: www.invest.up.gov.in/career/.

Sr. No.	Name of Post	No. of Post
1	General Manager (Textile)	01
2	Asst. General Manager (Textile)	01
3	General Manager (Chemical)	01
4	Asst. General Manager (Chemical)	01
5	General Manager (Electronic Manufacturing)	01
6	Asst. General Manager (Electronic Manufacturing)	01
7	General Manager (Automobile)	01
8	General Manager (Service Sector)	01
9	Asst. General Manager (Service Sector)	01
10	General Manager (Policy)	01

- For details of educational/technical qualification, age, eligibility, experience, application format etc. kindly visit Invest UP website https://invest.up.gov.in/career/
- Only online applications shall be accepted for the above posts
- Last date for the submission of online applications is **24.05.2026** by 5:00 PM

Scan here to apply for Above mentioned Posts

25001/56/2627 eMail: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
eProcurement Notice for Road Works under DMF
Bid Identification No. NCB-02 / RWCKJR / 2026-27

No. 2331 / Date: 24.04.26

1. Name of the work : **Construction and Improvement of Road Works under DMF in the District of Keonjhar.**
2. No. of work : **18** (Eighteen) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-02/ RWCKJR/ 2026-27	Dt.05.05.26 At 11.00 A.M.	Dt.19.05.26 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.18.05.26 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.20.05.26 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- **Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.

OIPR-25001/25177/1/26-27/0003

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'. The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/10/2025-26)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004 and Hon'ble High Court Of Karnataka has cleared the title (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 707/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
	No.7/2, PID No. 76-36-7/2, Alexandra Street, Richmond Town, Old Ward No. 76 New Ward No. 117, Shanthinagara, Bengaluru. East to west toward East 65' 3 & Towards West 51+ 10 ft & North to South Towards North 59 ft & toward South 68 ft Aggregating 4010 sq.ft . Location: **https://maps.app.goo.gl/GB9VyYJrwfcfagiS8**			
(a)	1st floor, Flat No. FF-101, UDS-369.50, SBA-1715.625 sq.ft	2,25,97,650/-	22,60,000/-	2,26,000/-
(b)	1st floor, Flat No. FF-102, UDS-359.41, SBA-1668.75 sq.ft	2,19,90,600/-	22,00,000/-	2,20,000/-
(c)	2nd floor, Flat No. SF-201, UDS-369.50, SBA-1715.625 sq.ft	2,28,19,950/-	22,82,000/-	2,29,000/-
(d)	2nd floor, Flat No. SF-202, UDS-359.41, SBA-1668.75 sq.ft	2,22,12,900/-	22,22,000/-	2,23,000/-
(e)	4th floor, Flat No.FRT-401, UDS-369.50, SBA-1715.625 sq.ft	2,24,86,500/-	22,49,000/-	2,25,000/-
(f)	4th floor, Flat No.FRT-402, UDS-359.41, SBA-1668.75 sq.ft	2,18,88,000/-	21,89,000/-	2,19,000/-
(g)	5th floor, Flat No.FTF-500, UDS-711, SBA-3301.25 sq.ft	4,29,29,550/-	42,93,000/-	4,30,000/-
(h)	6th floor, Pent House No.501, UDS-383.37, SBA-1780 sq.ft	2,34,35,550/-	23,44,000/-	2,35,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
14th May 2026, 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-	**20th May 2026 11:00am to 01:00 pm**	**26th May 2026 Before 5.00 pm**	**29th May 2026 11 am to 1 pm**

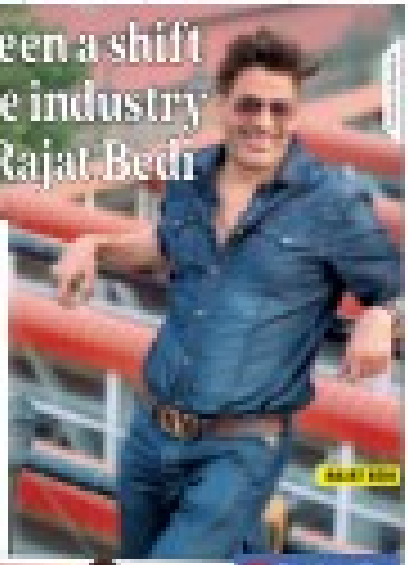
For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact **Assistant Commissioner,** Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174.

Date: 30.04.2026
Place: Bengaluru

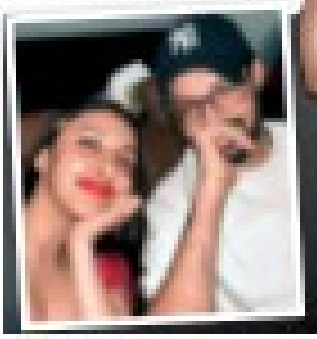
Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/432/ZEN/2026-27

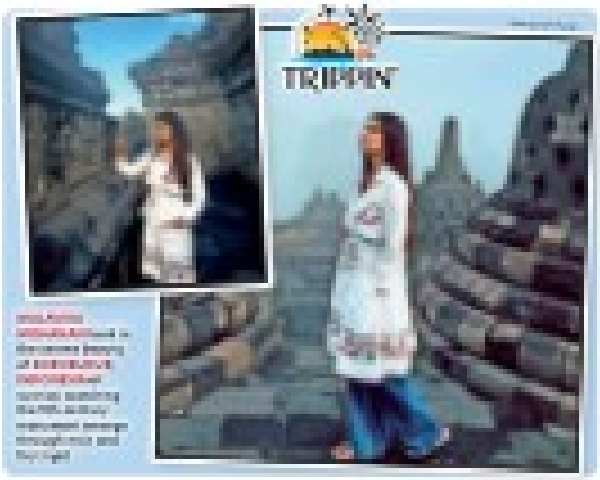
There's been a shift in how the industry sees me: Rajat Bedi



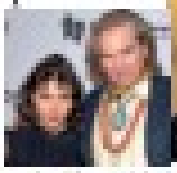
Akansha Ranjan-Sharan set to tie the knot in July

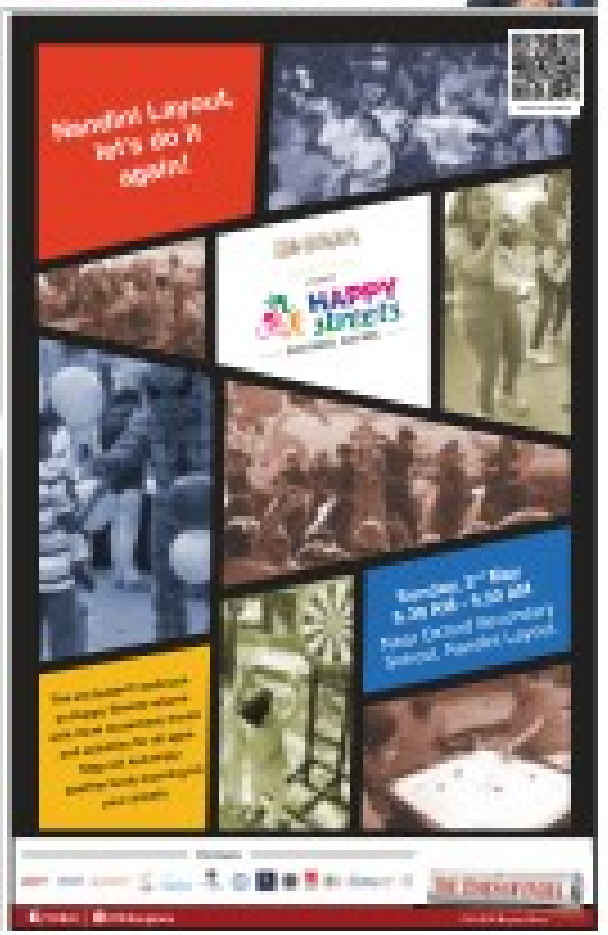


Aussie Minister Tony Burke's heart belongs to Bollywood



Val Kilmer's daughter defends his final role that was AI-powered




Nandini Layout, let's do it again!
HAPPY STREETS

A thought for today

The true snob never rests; there is always a higher goal to attain...more and more people to look down upon

RUSSELL LYNES

Cylindrical Vision

What India must learn from the LPG crisis

Commercial LPG price has been hiked before, in fact, during the Hormuz crisis. But yesterday's increase captures the true extent of supply disruption. A 48% increase – from ₹2,078.5 to ₹3,071.5 – is unprecedented. Obviously, there are limits to the cushion govt can provide. When war broke out on Feb 28, many tankers were at sea. Gas kept arriving through March, although Hormuz was closed. But April, as **TOI** reported yesterday, has been a difficult month, especially on the LPG front. Imports of this fuel halved from 2mn tonnes a month to less than 1mnt. That left a huge supply hole, despite Indian refiners increasing LPG production by 30%.

So far, households, which use 84% of LPG, have been spared. But if the blockade continues, they should brace for pain. A sharp price increase could undo years of efforts to coax millions of poor households to use clean fuel. The same risk exists with commercial LPG. Beyond restaurants, LPG's become the preferred fuel in industries like ceramics. In fact, before the war, commercial LPG use was growing thrice as fast as household use.

India's trying to get more LPG from US now, but it costs more to ship, and takes longer to arrive. May's dispatches won't arrive before July. Even crude isn't as easily available as steady pump prices suggest. Last month, India averaged imports of only 4.4mn barrels per day, down from 5.2mn bpd in Feb. No doubt, this crisis will end at some point, and fuel prices will tumble eventually. But each day, until then, will be a drag on the economy. That's why India must plan for resilience. Hydrocarbons will, of course, remain crucial as industrial feedstock. But transport, cooking, heating, power generation – those sectors should be weaned urgently. Nuclear, renewables, and biofuels – our mountains of waste are waiting to be gasified – the solutions already exist.

The World's Only...

The thrill of buying uber exclusive stuff

Brandwallahs, and economists, know this well – we premiumise, and put greater value, on things other people want, and can't have, simply because they can't afford them. It's in our very nature. And nothing serves this deep-seated need more than super exclusives, and single-origin uber luxuries. For the very rich, this is the stuff that warms the heart and blows their mind, and they don't mind, if they notice at all, the dent in the pocket. Thus the oohs & aahs about Japanese sake from beyond the world. A 100ml bottle of Dassai Moon, brewed in International Space Station in 2025 – that means, fermented in space, refined on Earth – sold for $690,000 (about ₹6.5cr). Moony or loony? Plenty of both, and that's exactly what the branding desires. After all, how many breweries partner with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to make sake in outer space?

Scarcity increases value, unique and intricate processes fascinate us – think Thailand's Black Ivory coffee, where arabica cherries fed to elephants are retrieved, 33 kilos of cherries make 1kg coffee. The process alone makes it the world's most expensive coffee. There's a short list of such luxuries, often auctioned. And often, bids seem crazy to us un-rich peeps – like the tiger shark preserved in formaldehyde by Damien Hirst. It sold for $12mn in 1991. But whatever the whims of the supra-rich, what's most valuable is invariably priceless. Take Peace of Mind – the other kind of Made in Space stuff, which needs neither tech, nor titanium flask.

When Did Ordinary Life Become A Disease?

How overdiagnosis is making us feel worse

Neurologist and seizure expert, ***Suzanne O'Sullivan***, often sees patients who already have three, four, five pre-existing diagnoses, which don't yet have a cure. In a medical world racing pell-mell towards fancy new tests, she finds it very important to ask the patient, 'What has happened to you?' That's different from, 'What is wrong with you?'

Her book, ***The Age of Diagnosis: Sickness, Health and Why Modern Medicine Has Gone Too Far***, reminds us that we are all as different on the inside as we are on the outside. Every genetic test and every MRI can show 'abnormalities'. Such capabilities can make it difficult for anybody at any age, to consider themselves perfectly healthy.

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

Plus, disease definitions keep expanding. When in 2003, American Diabetes Association lowered the threshold for normal glucose level in a fasting person from 6.1 millimoles per litre to 5.6, it increased the number of pre-diabetics two- to threefold. Drawing in milder cases is an 'overdiagnosis' problem, when higher rates of disease detection don't deliver improvements in long-term health.

A predictive diagnosis is actually only a warning about the future, which, however, is not guaranteed. O'Sullivan underlines that even cancer screening programmes do not necessarily reduce *either* cancer deaths *or* overall mortality. All they do is assume that all cancers will grow malignantly and threaten life, so treat each of them equally aggressively.

Basically, although not all cancer cells grow to cause illness and death, all of them cause the same fear. One thing that will help is giving small errant cells found on screening, which show no definite evidence of growth, a different name than the one we have given to fast-growing, symptomatic tumours.

There is also a social contagion element. After Angelina Jolie revealed she carried a BRCA1 variant and had undergone risk-reducing breast surgery, this genetic test and surgery went up worldwide. And the term 'long Covid' was actually coined by someone on Twitter.

The danger that O'Sullivan's pointing to is that when the number of people with a diagnosis rises dramatically, drawing in those with even the mildest form of a condition, it can trivialise the disorder for those most severely affected, and divert resources from those most in need. Not to mention overshadowing the life of the overdiagnosed, with blood tests, doctors' appointments, and a needless sense of losing control over their destiny.

Today, one in 36 American children has autism, dramatically up from one in 150 two decades ago. There is no blood test or scan for this diagnosis. It's based entirely on societal agreement on what 'normal' behaviour looks like, with Elon Musk and Anthony Hopkins now included on the autism spectrum. But if the purpose of diagnosis is to predict what an individual needs, that's no longer possible.

Patients in need of heavy care, like non-verbal, 20-year-old Elijah end up being neglected. When he has a full-on meltdown on a bus, his mother tells the staring passengers, "This is what autism looks like, not what you saw on the telly last night!" They look away.

The word patient, O'Sullivan reminds us, is drawn from the Latin verb *pati*, which means to suffer. She says it's time to turn the dial back on making non-diseases into diseases. Ageing, poor sleep, sex drive difficulties, menopause, unhappiness, everything is not a problem that medicine will cure. Many of these are just ordinary life experiences.

Aam Aadmi, Khas Identity

What our favourite mango reveals about who we are – from our childhood to our personality types. The French have their Bordeaux and Beaujolais. We have our Alphonso and Langda

Partha Sinha

There is a revealing asymmetry in the way Indians relate to their foods. Dishes inspire loyalty. Recipes inspire argument. Ingredients inspire, at best, preference. But the mango, the *aam*, inspires something that has no clean category in the sociology of taste. It inspires selfhood. And selfhood, once attached to a fruit, is a clinical condition masquerading as culture.

The anthropology of food attachment in India follows a fairly predictable grammar. We identify with preparations, the biryani, the dal baati, the fish curry, because preparations carry the signature of human intervention. Someone made this. Someone's grandmother made this differently – and the argument has not ended. There are WhatsApp groups dedicated to less. The dish becomes a vessel for memory, technique, and belonging, precisely because it required transformation. Culture leaves its fingerprint in the cooking. Occasionally its ego.

The mango breaks this grammar entirely. It arrives already finished. No knife improves it beyond the knife that opens it. No spice completes it. No grandmother's secret is required, though grandmothers will insert themselves anyway, along with unsolicited dietary advice. And yet, the mango generates fiercer allegiance than almost any dish in the Indian repertoire. We have conferred the status of craft upon something that asked for none.

Which suggests the mango is not loved for what it is. It is loved for what it represents. And what it represents is place. Irreducibly, stubbornly, untranslatably, place.

The French have a word for this: terroir. The idea that geography is not merely backdrop but ingredient, that the soil, the rain, the specific coastal air enter the thing grown in it, and cannot be extracted from the experience of consuming it. Wine culture built an entire civilisation around this, then an entire tourism industry, then an entire personality type at dinner parties, who say things like "notes of oak" with alarming confidence. India arrived at the same truth independently, earlier, with mangoes, and without bothering to theorise it, because we were too busy eating, and arguing loudly in trains.

A Ratnagiri Alphonso is not grown in Ratnagiri. It *is* Ratnagiri. The laterite soil, the Konkan humidity, the temperature gradient between coast and ghats, these are not conditions of production. They are ingredients. Which is why an Alphonso grown elsewhere is, to the initiated, not an Alphonso at all, but an impersonation: technically present, emotionally fraudulent, the fruit equivalent of a cover version.

Consider the fault lines. The Alphonso lobby is urban, confident, and has internalised its own marketing so completely, it no longer recognises it as marketing. Its devotees speak with the serenity of people who have resolved all philosophical questions. Mostly at family dinners.

The Bengali, presented with this argument, does not counter-argue. He simply becomes quiet in a particular way, the quietness of someone who has decided that explaining would be condescending, and reaches for the Himsagar. Pale green fading to butter yellow, flesh of an almost scandalous sweetness, it arrives the way genuine confidence arrives: without fanfare, without comparison, without any apparent interest in your Alphonso. The first Himsagar marks not the arrival of a fruit, but the restoration of a particular emotional frequency, that the other ten months of the year simply cannot sustain. Alphonso is admired. Himsagar is *missed*. Which, as any psychologist will tell you, is a far more serious condition.

The Langda makes a third argument altogether. Supposedly named after a legless saint whose orchard first produced it, Langda is the mango for people who find Alphonso's perfection faintly suspicious. Tangy, complex, unpredictable. Its following does not sell you the Langda. They allow you to discover it, and then watch your face with the satisfaction of someone who has been right for a long time, and had no intention of rushing you.

Image: AI

Each variety is a dialect. Each dialect is a geography. Each geography is a constituency with strongly held views, and no interest in coalition. Federalism, if it had a fruit bowl.

Here is the deeper structure underneath all of this regional theatre. India is a civilisation that has always organised identity around the particular, rather than the universal. The universal is a philosophical achievement, admirable, effortful, ultimately a little cold. The particular is where life is actually lived, argued over, and occasionally litigated, sometimes before lunch. The mango fully honours this civilisational preference. Unlike dishes, it cannot be standardised. Unlike grains, it cannot be genericised. A wheat berry does not carry Haryana inside it in any way that Haryana would recognise as itself. But the Himsagar carries Murshidabad. The Alphonso carries Devgad. The variety is the address, and the address is the self.

Globalisation has spent three decades dissolving the particular into the universal. And yet, the mango has other ideas, not through ideology, but through simple biological stubbornness. The place is the point. And the place cannot be disrupted by anyone currently raising a Series B, though one suspects someone, somewhere, has already built a pitch deck titled 'Mango-as-a-Service'.

The mango is the only food relationship in India entirely without transaction. You do not cook it. You simply receive it, and in receiving it, you receive the summer, the childhood, the specific quality of afternoon light in a courtyard you can no longer visit by any means, except this one.

Marcel Proust had his madeleine. We have the *aam*. The difference is that the madeleine was baked by someone – a small act of authorship. The mango simply grew. Which means, the memory it carries was authored not by any human hand, but by the earth itself, in a specific patch, in a specific season, that your body apparently never forgot, despite years of urban adulthood, calorie-counting apps, and the quiet guilt of ordering cut fruits that taste faintly of refrigeration and regret.

That is a great deal to ask of a fruit. The *aam*, characteristically, has no objection. The *chikoo*, to its enduring credit, never tried.

What The Woman In Worli Tells Us About Our Life

A political rally had blocked her from picking up her child from school. When our life is interrupted like this without apology, our roads & time taken from us, why shouldn't we get angry?

Siddharth Dhanvant Shanghvi

When I saw the video of the woman in Worli shouting at a minister, after a political rally trapped her in traffic, as she was trying to collect her child from school, I did not think: How rude. I thought: What took her so long? Actually: What's taken all of us so long?

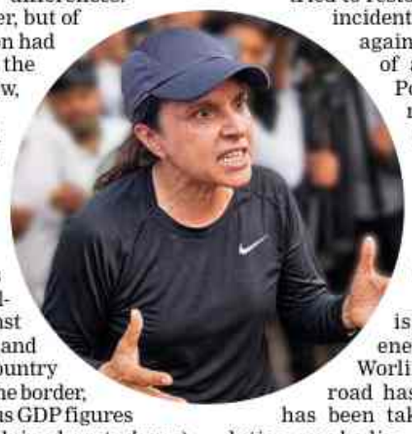
Before trying to answer that, let's consider other women in this tradition. Rosa Parks never set out to become a monument but in Montgomery, 1955, she simply refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Her arrest ignited the American Civil Rights movement. Closer home, the women of Chipko tied their hands around the trees they loved, not even axes could deter them. In Sweden, a schoolgirl, Greta Thunberg, sat outside her parliament, igniting a global debate around the climate crisis. When women perform small acts that bare the architecture of oppression, these acts are no longer small.

That's why the woman shouting at the minister on a road in Worli, Mumbai, reminded me only of the part of me that too had wanted nothing more than to shout back at the system. I've felt that same smouldering rage in my own body – stuck in traffic, staring at broken roads, "VIP" movement, all that vile theatre of Indian public inconvenience. I too have felt like storming out of my car and shouting, not only at a minister, but at the entire machinery of administrative contempt, which makes life in India not just occasionally punishing, but increasingly unbearable.

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

And yet, like so many other Indians, I've been merely mute. In the cricket match between govt and myself, laziness is bowling, and fear has the run of the pitch. We think it is our karma to suffer, patience a form of wisdom.

In March 1936, Dorothea Lange photographed Florence Owens Thompson, anxious and gaunt, with her children leaning into her body. An image that asked: How will I feed them, where will we go, what remains? Lange's unforgettable photograph helped America finally see the drought in the Californian heartland. The Worli woman video was like an urban cousin of this image, with key differences. She was not emblematic of hunger, but of fury. And metropolitan suffocation had replaced rural destitution. Here, the mother was not symbolic of sorrow, but of civic alarm.



Once, women were depicted looking sad (remember Picasso's Guernica?) because the world had failed them. Now, they are filmed shouting, because sadness is no longer enough.

In Nepal, Gen Z protesters transformed anger over a social-media ban into a mass revolt against corruption, dynastic privilege, and unemployment. And forced their country into a political reset. Right across the border, with our glorious GDP figures (and a rupee devaluing down to *danas*), citizens have failed to make meaning out of their misery.

This is why the Worli woman's fury lands so poignantly: As a marker of my own political inaction and general wimpiness. She was not making a political argument but, quite simply, trying to pick up her child from school. Civilisation is built not only in Parliament, or courts. It's shaped out of school pickups, clinic visits, train timings, and children returned safely home. When politics interrupts ordinary human errands without apology, it stops being representation. That's what it feels like to live in India: A sort of mafia state.

The incident platformed perverse ironies special to our country. The rally was reportedly about women's empowerment. The slogan said 'Nari Shakti'. But male cops on the streets simply watched on, as the woman tried to restore a semblance of order. After the incident, a complaint was reportedly filed against the woman (by the daughter of a Bigg Boss contestant). Mumbai Police later clarified that no FIR was registered. Another irony: Let's find women to intimidate women. Of course, the correct, moral, and practical solution would have been for the minister to move his morcha to the empty ground, exactly as the shouting woman had advised him to do.

Audre Lorde wrote that "anger is loaded with information and energy." The anger of the woman in Worli carried this information: Our road has been taken from us. Our time has been taken from us. Our children, our duties, our bodies, our day, all of it is secondary to political spectacle. Rage tells us to test what we have been trained to tolerate for too long.

That is the difference between despair and citizenship. Despair drops its shoulders to say, nothing will change. Citizenship says: Move the barricade! Get out of the way! I don't know the woman in Worli – shouting to move traffic, disorder, ministers, mindsets – but I know that she was also shouting for me. I only wish I had been part of her chorus.

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

Whether one's nature is serving the Lord, either as servant or as wife, such a devotion with no sense of distinction between Lord and yourself that alone is to be achieved...

Chinmayananda Saraswati, Narada Bhakti Sutra

Find Enriching Peace, Let Go Of Expectations

Swami Bhoomananda Tirtha

Peace can be had in two ways: When you have a comfortable sleep, you are peaceful, undisturbed, unaffected. Also, when you can compose your mind in meditation or contemplation, the mind becomes free of thoughts and botheration. You are led to peacefulness, even though only for a short time.

Sleep lasts for longer. The meditative composure, on the other hand, may have a shorter spell. Its effect may linger for some time after you finish the session. But soon, the mind gets caught up in worldly thoughts leading to agitation.

As a contrast, there is another way of being peaceful. In this type, you shall have peace, contentment and joy without having to withdraw yourself from activities. You can be fully involved amid intense worldly pursuits and yet be completely peaceful. This is what a good seeker should aim at, inquire and pursue.

For this, the mind must become pure. Several qualities must be imbued into it. Goodness should become the very nature of such a mind. This pursuit of purity, and virtues, which directly brings peace to the mind – no matter whether the mind is active or inactive – is the ultimate quest of all religions, philosophy, spirituality and yog.

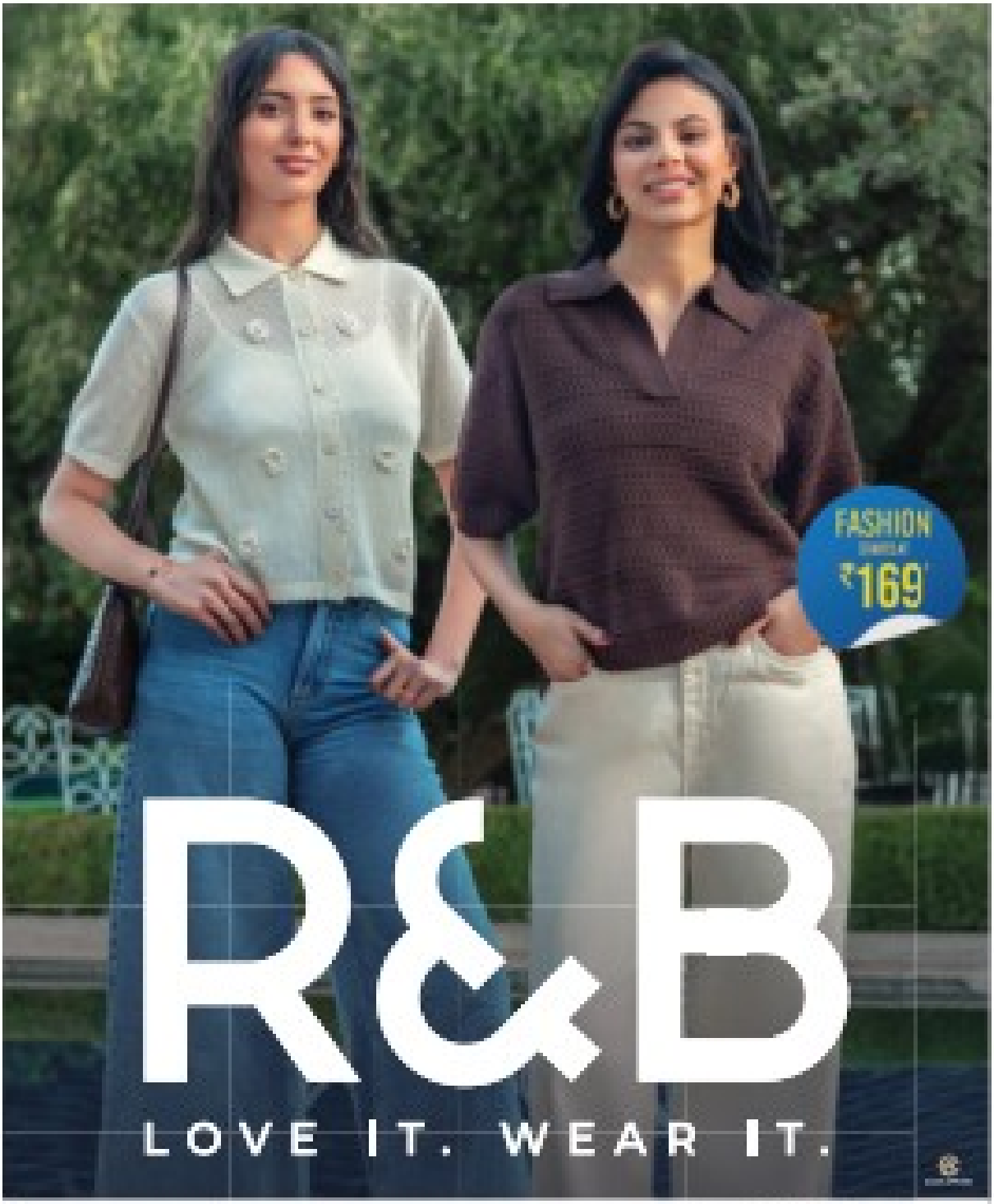
THE SPEAKING TREE

Whenever you feel a lack of peace, understand that there is a cause behind it and look for it. Our shastras and tradition have identified causes of lack of peace or mental agitations. Most of the ancient findings are true even today because our mind has remained basically the same. Our senses are the same, mind and psychology are the same, intelligence and its propensities are no different.

One important quality that immediately bestows peace is *anapeksata*, non-expectation. The mind should have no expectation, no desire. The second is *amanitvam*, lack of ego. The ego should not block the way to any kind of learning or improvement. You may have to incorporate several virtues; you may have to eliminate many vices. Either while incorporating virtuous notes, or while eliminating vices, your ego should not give rise to undue resistance. Understand that virtues lead to your own excellence, expansion and peace, and vices cause only constriction and torment.

Our shastras say: Whenever truth is spoken, we must receive and thoughtfully imbibe it, and if something unreasonable is uttered even by Brahmn, it must be rejected like a blade of grass. So, ego should not stand in the way of either incorporating a virtue or eliminating a vice. This effacement of ego, which steers life towards purity and enlightenment, is important.

The desires will only disturb the mind, and ego will constantly irritate and pose problems. If these two are kept away, being constantly watchful about their emergence, you will find a better, more permanent and enriching peace than what you would have through meditation. Your peace will then coexist with your worldly activity and interactions.



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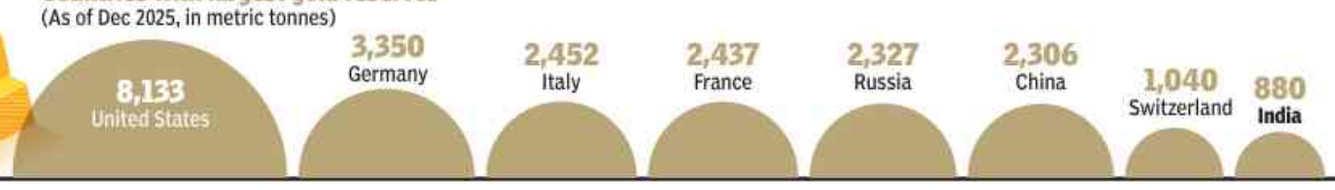
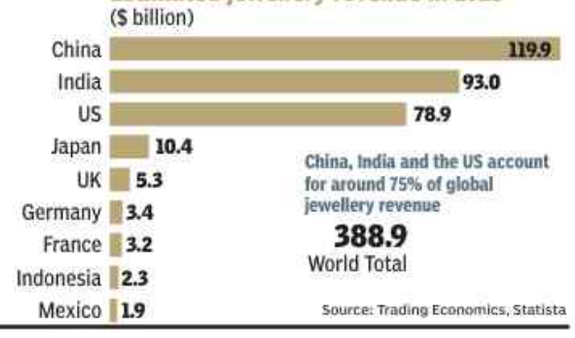
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

In a world marked by economic crisis and geopolitical tensions, national gold reserves bolster currency credibility and shield against market volatility. In recent years, as uncertainty lingers, central banks around the world stockpile this precious metal, making gold a key geo-economic indicator.

At over 8,100 tonnes in Dec 2025, US holds the largest gold reserves...





KEY MARKET MOVES
% CHG SINCE IRAN WAR

Brent oil futures	▲57.4
US gasoline price (avg spot)	▲36.8
European benchmark gas	▲50.4
Bloomberg dollar index	▲0.8
Global stocks*	▲1.1
BSE sensex	▼5.4
Rupee vs $	▼4.2

*Bloomberg world large and mid-cap price return index
Pre-war baseline is Feb 27
Source: Bloomberg, ETIG
Data as of 30 April 2026

Proxy advisory firm asks RBI to reject Tata Sons' application

Mumbai: InGovern Research has called on the RBI to reject Tata Sons' application to surrender its financial licence, describing the move as a "strategic manoeuvre to sidestep mandatory listing obligations" and to order the company to list on domestic exchanges by March 2027.

InGovern argued that the application, filed in March 2024, is "dead on arrival" based on RBI's April 2026 directions, and that the expiry of the September 2025 listing deadline had rendered it both "substantively ineligible and procedurally time-barred."

It warned that without a listing, Tata Sons would remain beyond the reach of Sebi's disclosure regime, an oversight gap it described as untenable for a holdco that controls systemic listed entities like TCS. Without it, related-party transactions go ungoverned and group-level capital allocation remains opaque to the broader market.

Tata Sons had sought to exit the CIC regulatory perimeter by repaying over Rs20,000 crore in standalone debt, arguing it had renounced access to public funds. However, the RBI's April 29 directions clarified that public funds encompass direct as well as indirect access through group companies — a definition that, InGovern said, strikes down the "standalone deleveraging" argument Tata Sons had relied upon to justify its exit. TNN

IPO delays, volatility hit April PE-VC deals

Chennai: Delays in IPOs, especially large tech listings amid market volatility, have dragged down private equity and venture capital (PE-VC) deals in April. PE-VC investments fell over 32% year-on-year from $2.8 billion to $1.9 billion, while the number of deals declined from 124 to 87, according to data from Venture Intelligence. TNN

Imports drive GST kitty to a record high in April, rises 9%

War-Related Disruptions May Have Hurt Domestic Collections

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: GST collections grew 8.7% to Rs 2,42,702 crore in April, an all-time high, but was driven by a 26% surge in the mop-up from imports, which were estimated at Rs 57,580 crore.

Based on transactions in March, for which taxes were paid in April, latest official data pegged GST collections from domestic transactions at Rs 1,85,122 crore, an increase of 4.3% over April 25. Within this, state GST mop-up was 3.1% higher at Rs 61,331 crore, while the central collections were over 7% higher at Rs 52,140 crore. With rates lowered on several goods and services, collection growth has slowed down.

The muted growth may be on account of the disruption caused by West Asia conflict, which resulted in supply problems for many industries, especially those dependent on gas. In fact, gas shortage forced several fertiliser units to advance maintenance, while units in Morbi and several other parts of the country were forced to stop production. Besides, there was a shortage of petrochemicals and other raw materials, which also may be reflecting in slower growth in industrial output in March.

In contrast, higher commodity prices may have resulted in higher collections from imports.

REFUNDS RISE OVER 19%

- GST collections from domestic transactions were pegged at Rs 1,85,122 crore, 4.3% rise over April 2025
- Mop-up from imports was estimated at Rs 57,580 crore, 26% increase during the month

Pratik Jain, partner at consulting firm Price Waterhouse & Co, added that the slower growth in collections from domestic transactions could indicate some softness in consumption — possibly reflecting a moderation in discretionary spending, amid ongoing geopolitical uncertainties.

"While the headline numbers are encouraging, the divergence between modest domestic GST growth and the significant uptick in import-linked collections warrant a strategic pivot. In an increasingly dynamic global landscape, we must critically re-examine our policy frameworks to further incentivise domestic manufacturing," said Saurabh Agrawal, tax partner at EY India, a consulting firm.

In April, refunds rose over 19% to Rs 31,793 crore, resulting in net collections growing 7.3% to Rs 2.1 lakh crore. "Although these collections relate to transactions in March 26, which was normal year-end reporting of maximum transactions, several large manufacturing and consuming states have reported low single-digit (state GST collection) growth, including Gujarat at 3% and Maharashtra, Karnataka and Haryana at 5% —this requires deeper sectoral analysis," said MS Mani, partner at Deloitte India.

At $4.9tn, Nvidia tops India's market cap

While Chip Giant Has More Than Doubled Its Value In Two Yrs, Domestic Cos Have Stalled

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

NVIDIA ON RECORD-BREAKING SPREE

Mumbai: Nvidia, the global US-based chip giant that's at the forefront of the ensuing AI revolution across the world, now has a market capitalisation more than the total market cap of all the companies listed in India. Compared to the company's valuation of $4.91 trillion during opening trades on Friday, India's was at $4.88 trillion when the local markets closed Thursday, Bloomberg data showed.

In the last few years, the demand for AI chips has more than doubled Nvidia's market cap from about $2 trillion exactly two years ago. In contrast, the slide in the Indian market mainly due to selling by foreign funds and the weakness of the rupee, have left its market cap almost unchanged on a point-to-point basis. In between, it had spiked to an all-time high at $5.9 trillion by end-Sept 2024, around the time the sensex had gone past the 86K mark for the first time in history. Last week, Nvidia's market cap had crossed the $5 trillion mark to hit an all-time high at $5.3 trillion. In 2023, it had become the first company in history to hit the $1 trillion market cap and early last year it had become the first to hit the $4 trillion valuation mark.

On Oct 29 last year, the chip giant had become the first company in history to hit the $5 trillion market cap mark. Since then, it has had a rough patch on Wall Street and hit a low of $4.2 trillion on March 20 this year. But since then, the revival of the AI rally has revived the Santa Clara, California-based company's total market value.

In the last two years, while Nvidia (and several other tech giants globally) have seen their market values jump substantially, led mainly by the AI-led demand and spending both, the Indian market has been witnessing substantial volatility with a downward bias.

According to market players, by Sept 2024, the valuations of the two leading Indian indices—sensex and nifty—were at multi-year highs (over 25x price-to-earnings or PE for sensex and over 24x for Nifty). Around that time the valuations of several other emerging market countries like India were available at a much lower valuation. Around the same time, growth of Indian companies was also faltering. The combined effect prompted foreign funds to start booking profit in the Indian market and invest where valuations were cheaper.

In 4 months, FPI selling in stocks surpasses $20bn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In just four months this year, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have net sold stocks worth a little over $20.6 billion, surpassing the highest ever yearly net sales figure in the domestic market.

In 2025, FPIs had net sold stocks worth $18.9 billion, the biggest annual outflow since foreign investors were allowed in 1992, data from Sebi and NSDL showed. In rupee terms, net selling so far in 2026 is at Rs 1.9 lakh crore while during the whole of 2025 it was at Rs 1.7 lakh crore. In the last two months alone, since the war in West Asia started, FPIs have taken out nearly Rs 1.8 lakh crore ($18.2 billion) from the stocks on a net basis. So far this year, only in Feb, FPIs were net buyers of Indian stocks, at Rs 22,615 crore ($2.5 billion), NSDL data showed.

The war led to a sudden and sharp spike in the prices of crude oil, the biggest import item for India, which threatens to derail the country's fiscal numbers and hurt the economy. This in turn weakened the rupee against most major currencies. This, combined with slower growth expectations of Indian companies and high valuations of stocks compared to India's peers among emerging economies globally, led to sharp sell-off by foreign funds, market players said.

Foreign funds have been almost consistent sellers of Indian equities since Oct 2024, taking out about $51.5 billion from Indian stocks. In the last 19 months to April 2026, they were net buyers in only six months.

UPI daily avg transactions cross 745mn

Mumbai: Data released by National Payments Corporation of India for April showed continued expansion in digital payments, with UPI sustaining double-digit annual growth despite a marginal sequential dip. UPI recorded 22.4 billion transactions in April 2026, marking a 25% year-on-year growth in volume. Transaction value stood at Rs 29 lakh crore, up 21% from a year earlier. Average daily activity increased, with volumes rising to 745 million from 730 million and daily value to Rs 96,766 crore from Rs 95,243 crore. TNN

TechM buys 85% in Avant for ₹190 crore

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Tech Mahindra acquired an 85% stake in the Canadian IT firm Avant Techno Solutions for approximately Rs 190 crore. The remaining 15% will be acquired after three years, based on a pre-agreed pricing formula.

The company said the acquisition will strengthen its capabilities in real-time payments infrastructure, migration, wire modernisation, and cloud transformation of core payment systems. It also expands Tech Mahindra's presence in wealth management platforms and identity and access management solutions across North America.

Roshan Shetty, Tech Mahindra's Head of BFSI and Public Sector for the Americas, said the deal will help the company support clients navigating rapid digital transformation while managing growth pressures. "By combining deep domain expertise with scaled technology delivery, we will help clients modernise core payment and wealth systems, improve customer engagement, and respond faster to evolving market and regulatory demands," he said.

Founded in 2017, Avant Techno Solutions specialises in payments and wealth platforms, along with emerging AI-led solutions focused on delivering business outcomes.

Srinivasa Varma Alluri, CEO of Avant Techno Solutions, said the acquisition marks a new phase of growth for the company.

Over the moon excited about India, says Cook

Aabhas.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Apple's India business is accelerating across categories, with the company reporting double-digit growth in iPhone, iPad and Mac during its latest quarter. Highlighting the momentum, CEO Tim Cook told analysts during the company's earnings call that he is "over the moon excited about India," indicating the market's growing importance even as global demand conditions remain uneven.

The company is seeing traction not just in smartphones but also across its broader computing portfolio. The recently launched MacBook Neo has contributed to growth in Mac sales, helping Apple deepen its presence across both consumer and professional segments. Apple has also reported sustained demand across iPad and iPhone categories, reflecting a more balanced growth profile.

Cook underlined the scale of the opportunity, noting that India is "the second largest smartphone market in the world and the third largest PC market," while emphasising that Apple still holds a relatively modest share despite recent gains.

Industry analysts say this combination of strong demand and low penetration is supporting Apple's current growth trajectory. "Apple's advantage in India continues to be its relatively low base, which allows it to grow faster than the overall market," said Navkendar Singh, associate vice president at IDC India. He added that pressure in the premium segment and a broader market slowdown could weigh on momentum going forward.

Growth is being driven largely by first-time buyers across categories, particularly the iPhone, as Apple continues to expand its installed base in the country. Analysts noted that demand for the latest iPhone line-up remains robust, with supply constraints rather than weak consumer interest, limiting shipments in recent months.

"The iPhone 17 has been a critical part as Apple made it as close to the Pro models, which has enhanced its appeal to buyer," Singh said.

Tablets are also contributing to overall performance, with iPad sales benefiting from a recovery in the broader tablet market and rising demand across segments.

According to Shilpi Jain, senior analyst at Counterpoint Research, next phase of growth is expected to come from deeper penetration. She said there remains significant headroom in tier-3 and tier-4 cities, where Apple is expanding through financing options and retail outreach.

Singh said Apple could reach a share of 13-15% over next few years. Jain added that as installed base expands, replacement demand is beginning to play a larger role, supported by strong stickiness that encourages users to stay within Apple's ecosystem.

Banks should get more active in offshore rupee trade: RBI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI governor **Sanjay Malhotra** on Friday called for Indian banks to emerge as market-makers in offshore markets, urging a more active global role for domestic lenders as the central bank seeks to shift rupee price discovery onshore, speaking at the FIMMDA-PDAI Annual Conference in Amsterdam.

Noting that Indian banks deal only with offshore market makers and not end-users, Malhotra said, "If the global INR market has to be on-shored, Indian banks will need to evolve as market-makers globally." This reflects RBI's concern that offshore non-deliverable forward (NDF) markets and global players are increasingly influencing the rupee.

The remarks underscore a "tail wagging the dog" dynamic seen by policymakers, where offshore NDF markets often lead price discovery. These markets enable large speculative positions that can move ahead of onshore flows and at times amplify pressure on the currency. When offshore rates diverge from domestic spot and forward markets, arbitrage and hedging flows transmit those signals back onshore, allowing offshore sentiment to drive local pricing.

By pushing Indian banks to act as global market-makers, RBI aims to reduce persistent arbitrage between onshore and offshore markets, anchor price discovery domestically, and limit speculative one-way trades that strain FX liquidity and complicate volatility management.

Malhotra outlined other priorities, noting that liquidity in govt securities needs improvement across tenors, derivatives markets remain concentrated, and credit derivatives are "largely an underutilised area." He also said banks should expand access to the FX retail platform so "retail users get a fair deal," while emphasising responsibilities on fairness, transparency and market integrity.

Mphasis FY26 revenue rises 11.6% to $1.7 bn

Bengaluru: Mphasis reported a 6.9% year-on-year (YoY) rise in revenue in dollar terms, and 6.7% growth in constant currency. For the full year, revenue increased 11.6% YoY to $1.7 billion.

In the March quarter, revenue grew 2.5% sequentially and 7.5% YoY in dollar terms, reaching $463 million. In constant currency, growth was 2.5% sequentially and 7.1% year-over-year. Regionally, the Americas grew 9.8%, while Europe, Middle East and Africa declined 6.4%, and other regions fell 4.9%. By segment, Banking and Financial Services remained the largest contributor at 52.3% of revenue, growing 15.1% YoY. The Insurance segment saw strong growth of 36.8%.

The company reported total contract value (TCV) wins of $2.1 billion in FY26. In Q4 alone, it secured $407 million in new deals. CEO Nitin Rakesh said client spending is increasingly shifting toward AI programmes with clear returns. The company added that 69% of its pipeline is now AI-led, indicating a structural shift in demand. TNN

RBI DG: Macro factors strong, no pressure on BoP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: RBI deputy governor **Poonam Gupta** Friday said that India has strong macroeconomic fundamentals, which can help it sustain 7.5% growth with low inflation, and added that she was not seeing a major impact on the balance of payments situation due to the West Asia conflict.

At a conference organised by the Isaac Centre for Public Policy at Ashoka University, Gupta said India has inherent and structural strengths – solid remittances and that move in one direction, net services exports, which are doing very well and FDI. While noting that there has been an increase in portfolio flows, she suggested that the situation would change due to structural factors.

Asked about the impact of war on remittances, the RBI deputy governor argued that with tension easing, migrants will return to West Asia and reconstruction along with "revenge spending" will help going forward.

Gupta was optimistic on the economy, saying that growth had surprised (higher than original projection) on the positive side for the last three years, with around 7.5% and inflation remaining under 4%. Given that the situation remained dynamic, RBI will assess growth and inflation projections ahead of next month's monetary policy committee meeting, she said.

In a detailed presentation on the monetary policy framework, Gupta said monetary policy and the fiscal policy were working towards macroeconomic stability. She added that the monetary policy framework, with inflation target of 4%, which can move in the 2-6% band, had served India well.

'Govt to sustain capex despite W Asia crisis'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: While acknowledging possible stress due to the West Asia conflict , expenditure secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam Friday said that the Centre will prioritise capital expenditure and seek to ensure that the entire allocation for public spending is utilised.

All options for disinvestment of govt stake in IDBI remains open, says DIPAM secretary Arunish Chawla

"The fiscal stress is indeed very much a reality, but at the same time... the capex will really be a priority item, which we would like to preserve and ensure that it continues at the budgeted level," Vualnam said at a conference organised by the Isaac Centre for Public Policy at Ashoka University. Highways, railways, shipping, ports, and urban development were flagged as the focus areas for capex during the current fiscal year. Govt has budgeted for Rs 12.2 lakh crore capex this year.

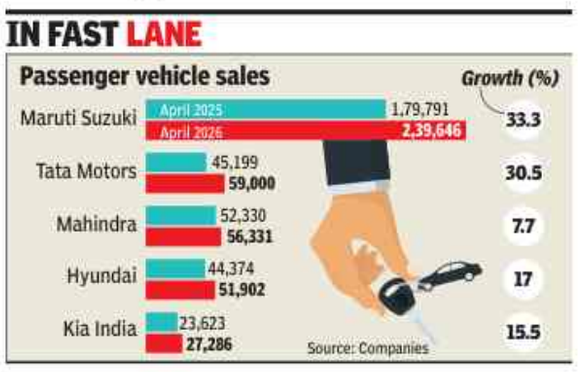
Car sales surge, SUVs drive growth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's passenger vehicle market opened the new fiscal on a strong note, with April sales estimated at around 4.5 lakh units, marking a roughly 27% increase over 3.5 lakh units in the same month last year. The growth was led by strong performances across major automakers and sustained demand for utility vehicles.

Maruti Suzuki reported total sales of almost 2.4 lakh units in April, up from 1.8 lakh units a year ago. Domestic passenger vehicle sales rose 35.3% year-on-year to 1.9 lakh units. The Dzire led the company's portfolio in the month. Maruti saw a significant jump in Alto and S-Presso numbers, which rose from 6,332 units to 16,066 units.

IN FAST LANE



Commenting on demand conditions, Maruti Suzuki senior executive officer (marketing & sales) Partho Banerjee said impact of GST 2.0, I-T relief and reduced repo rates are still driving industry growth.

Tata Motors reported domestic passenger vehicle volumes of 59,000 units, up 30.5% year-on-year, driven by models, such as the Nexon and Punch. The company also retained its lead in the electric vehicle segment, with over 8,500 retail units.

Mahindra & Mahindra posted 56,331 units, registering a 7.7% increase, supported by SUV portfolio. Hyundai Motor India recorded domestic wholesales of 51,902 units, up 17%, with the Venue achieving its highest monthly volumes.

Kia India reported its best-ever April performance at 27,286 units, up 16% year-on-year. Both Seltos and Sonet crossed 10,000 units individually. Renault India reported 5,413 units, more than doubling volumes from a year earlier. SUVs remained primary growth driver, with most manufacturers relying on utility vehicles to expand volumes and improve margins.

The growth comes even as companies face rising input costs linked to global supply chain pressures, including higher prices for semiconductors and EV components. Companies have largely absorbed these increases, amid competitive market conditions.

Bangalore Times

TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026

ANYONE WHO LIVES WITHIN THEIR MEANS SUFFERS FROM A LACK OF IMAGINATION.
— OSCAR WILDE

MADONNA TEAMS UP WITH SABRINA CARPENTER FOR THEIR NEW COLLABORATIVE SINGLE 'BRING YOUR LOVE'

BRITNEY SPEARS IS CHARGED WITH ONE MISDEMEANOR COUNT OF DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

Trump says he's 'not satisfied' with new proposal from Iran

Prez: Tremendous Discord Within Iran Leadership

US President Donald Trump said on Friday he was "not satisfied" with a new Iranian negotiating proposal, with peace talks between the two sides frozen despite a weeks-long ceasefire.

Iran delivered the text of the proposal to mediator Pakistan on Thursday evening, the IRNA news agency reported, without offering details as to its contents. "At this moment I'm not satisfied with what they're offering," Trump told reporters, laying blame for the stalled talks with Iran due to "tremendous discord" within its leadership.

"Do we want to go and just blast the hell out of them and finish them forever — or do we want to try and make a deal? I mean, those are the options," he said when asked about next steps, adding he would "prefer not" to take the first option "on a human basis".

Reuters

Trump speaks to reporters as he leaves White House on Friday

The war, launched by the US and Israel on Feb 28, has been on hold since April 8, but only one failed round of direct talks has taken place between Iran and US representatives.

Despite the failure to negotiate an end to the war, the ceasefire has held. On Friday, judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said "the Islamic Republic has never shied away from negotiations". But he added in a video shared by the judiciary's Mizan Online website, "we certainly do not accept imposition" — though Tehran did not want a return to war.

The White House has declined to comment on the details of the new Iranian proposal.

But the news site Axios reported that US envoy Steve Witkoff earlier this week had submitted amendments to a previous proposal seeking to reinject the issue of Tehran's nuclear programme into the negotiations. Citing a source familiar with the matter, Axios said they included a demand that Iran not try to move enriched uranium out of sites bombed during a brief war last year, or resume any activity there while talks continue.

Oil prices fall as Iran proposes new US talks

The price of oil fell on Friday after Iranian media reported that Tehran had proposed fresh talks with the US. A barrel of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) fell briefly over 5%, dipping below the symbolic $100 mark, before clawing back to stand at $101.7. The other main US benchmark Brent North Sea crude also recovered slightly, initially dropping by more than 3% to $106.98 before edging back to $108.4. At the start of the war on Iran in late Feb, Brent was almost $73 a barrel and WTI $67. AFP

WEST ASIA CRISES REDIRECT INT'L SHIPPING

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz as well as over two-years-long tensions in the Red Sea are reshaping trade routes, with Africa becoming a hub of global container ship traffic, according to logistics and maritime sources

Goods move via Suez to Jeddah, then by road

- Following the blockade on Strait of Hormuz, Saudi Arabian **port of Jeddah on the Red Sea is becoming a new regional "hub"**, where international vessels from maritime giants MSC, CMA CGM, Maersk and Cosco arrive via the Suez Canal
- Cargo then leaves by truck along a desert highway **to deliver to places such as Sharjah, Bahrain and Kuwait,** which have not been served by sea for the past two months
- **Average wait time before unloading for container ships at Jeddah port has gone up** to 36 hours compared to 17 hours previous week
- The **port of Aqaba in Jordan serves as a base for sending goods** to Baghdad and Basra in Iraq, while a Turkish corridor is also allowing goods into northern Iraq

Egypt lost toll revenues from the Suez Canal, which make up a large part of its income. CyclOpe, a specialist commodities publication, says **in 2024 Egypt lost $7billion — a drop of over 60% compared with 2023**

Why ships are skipping Suez Canal

Some African ports are doing more business: Tanger Med Port Authority, Morocco, says it handled **11 million standard containers** in 2025 — up **8.4%**

- Asia-Europe container ships are avoiding the Red Sea from the Bab al-Mandeb Strait to the Suez Canal **since the first attack on a container ship by Yemen's Houthi militias on Nov 19, 2023**
- Ships now skirt around Africa by **following its eastern coast as far as the Cape of Good Hope** in southern South Africa before heading back north towards Europe and the Mediterranean

Brace for shock

- **Transport times have lengthened between Asia and Europe by an average of two weeks** and costs have risen because 30% to 50% more fuel is needed, and 10% to 20% more ships to ensure the same frequency of service
- The **average price to transport a standard 40-foot container on the main shipping routes increased by 14%** in April compared to the same period last year

Transit increases around Cape of Good Hope

- **70% of the freight traffic that went through the Red Sea in 2023 is being rerouted via the Cape of Good Hope,** says Yves Guillo, a supply chain expert at Efeso, a management consultancy based in Paris
- **IMF data shows commercial vessel traffic via the Cape of Good Hope has more than tripled in three years,** while traffic through the Bab al-Mandeb Strait has fallen by more than half
- Between March 1 and April 24 this year, **an average of 20 commercial vessels went round the Cape of Good Hope** every day compared with six in the same period in 2023
- By comparison, **traffic in the Red Sea has plummeted:** from 18 transits per day through Bab al-Mandeb between March and April 2023, the average fell to five three years later

Source: AFP

US military reaches deals with 7 tech firms to use AI on classified systems

Washington: The Pentagon said on Friday that it has partnered with seven tech companies to tap into their artificial intelligence (AI) in classified systems, allowing the military to boost its use of AI to help it fight wars.

Google, Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, Nvidia, OpenAI, Reflection and SpaceX will provide resources to help "augment warfighter decision-making in complex operational environments," the defence department said.

The defence department has been rapidly accelerating its use of AI in recent years. The technology can help the US military reduce the time it takes to identify and strike targets on the battlefield, while aiding in the organisation of weapons maintenance and supply lines, according to a report in March from the Brennan Center for Justice.

Friday's announcement comes after concerns raised by a company not on the list, Anthropic, whose battle with the Pentagon to put up AI guardrails has spilled into court. The tech company said it wanted assurances in its contract that the military would not use its technology in fully autonomous weapons and the surveillance of Americans. Defence secretary Pete Hegseth said the company must allow for any uses the Pentagon deemed lawful. AP

US Treasury warns shippers not to pay Hormuz tolls

Washington: Any shipper paying tolls to Iran for passage through the Strait of Hormuz, including charitable donations to organisations such as the Iranian Red Crescent Society, is at risk of punitive sanctions, the US Treasury warned on Friday.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most strategically vital maritime routes, with about 20% of the world's seaborne crude oil and liquefied natural gas flows passing through it. Tehran has proposed fees or tolls on vessels passing through the Strait, as part of proposals to end the war with Israel and the United States.

The advisory, from Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, said the US is aware of Iranian demands for payments to receive safe passage through the Strait. OFAC advised companies this week that paying the tolls puts them at risk, but clarified on Friday that payments disguised through charity or indirect payments are not allowed.

Treasury did not offer Reuters details on any countries or companies that have made such indirect payments. There have been reports of at least one payment of $2 million having been made for a vessel to traverse the Strait.

OFAC said demands may include several payment options, including fiat currency, digital assets, or other in-kind payments, such as charitable donations made to the Iranian Red Crescent Society, or Iranian embassy accounts. REUTERS

Iran's supreme leader calls for economic battle

▶ Continued from page 1

Good luck blockading a country with those borders," Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said on X, referring to his country's large size. He and other Iranian officials say the blockade, which they insist must be lifted for the sides to go to new talks and for Hormuz to be reopened, will further push up oil prices.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei Friday urged his people to wage economic battle and "disappoint" its enemies.

The Islamic republic "has proven to the world in a military battle with the enemies its progress and excellence", Khamenei said in a written statement, but "it must also disappoint and defeat them in the stage of economic and cultural jihad". He went on to call for "prioritising the consumption of domestically manufactured goods", and said "the owners of damaged businesses should avoid, as much as possible, layoffs and separation of their workforce".

Trump was briefed at the White House on Thursday by the head of US Central Command, which oversees American forces in the Middle East, and Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, according to Axios, which cited two unnamed US officials. Axios reported earlier that Centcom had prepared a plan for a brief wave of strikes to break the negotiating deadlock. AGENCIES

Trump admin says war in Iran has been 'terminated' before 60-day deadline

The Trump administration is arguing that the war in Iran has already ended because of a ceasefire that began in early April, an interpretation that would allow the White House to avoid the need to seek congressional approval. The claim furthered an argument laid out by defence secretary Pete Hegseth during his testimony in the Senate on Thursday, when he said the ceasefire effectively paused the war. **Under the War Powers Resolution of 1973, Congress must declare war or authorise the use of force within 60 days — a deadline that fell on Friday — or within 90 days if the president asks for an extension. But Congress made no attempt at enforcing that requirement, leaving town for a week on Thursday after the Senate rejected a Democratic attempt to halt the war for a sixth time.** A senior administration official said for purposes of that law, "the hostilities that began on Feb 28 have terminated". AP

Venezuela signs oil, gas deals with US firms

Venezuela signed deals with US companies on Thursday in a bid to boost oil and gas production, the latest sign of thawing relations after Washington deposed leftist leader Nicolas Maduro.

The South American nation is currently led by interim president Delcy Rodriguez, who is cooperating under heavy US pressure to meet President Donald Trump's demands for access to the country's vast oil supplies.

The possibility of increased Venezuelan oil output comes as global markets face disruptions to West Asia oil supplies from the conflict in Iran which have driven up oil prices. Under the agreements, US-based firms Hunt Overseas Oil Company and Crossover Energy will operate in the Orinoco Belt, where Venezuela's oil reserves are primarily concentrated. Venezuela has signed agreements with various multinational oil companies, including Chevron, Eni, and Repsol, after reforms to liberalise the energy sector. AFP

Trump says he'll impose 25% tariff on autos from EU

Washington: President Donald Trump said Friday that he will increase the tariffs charged on cars and trucks from the European Union next week to 25%. Trump said in the post that the EU "is not complying with our fully agreed to Trade Deal," though he did not state his objections.

Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had agreed to the trade deal last July. It set a 15% tariff on most goods.

Both the US and the EU had previously confirmed commitment to preserving the trade framework, known as the Turnberry Agreement, named after Trump's golf course in Scotland.

But the status of the 2025 deal was first cast into doubt after the Supreme Court this year ruled that the Republican president lacked the legal authority to declare an economic emergency and charge tariffs on EU goods. AP

US imposes fresh curbs on Cuban govt

Trump on Friday ordered new sanctions against Cuba, targeting a broad set of people in the communist-run country and threatening foreign banks that work with them. The measures are the latest thrust of a Trump administration drive to put heavy pressure on Cuba.

In an executive order, Trump said he will target people known to "operate in or have operated in the energy, defence and related material, metals and mining, financial services, or security sector of the Cuban economy, or any other sector" as determined by the US govt. It also said it would target Cuban officials judged to have engaged in "serious human rights abuses" or corruption. AFP

Jobless after US contract expiry, AP techie ends life

Vijayawada: A 26-year-old Kurnool native, who had been jobless since his employment contract with a tech firm in the US ended, fatally shot himself with a handgun in his Chicago apartment Thursday, **reports Srikanth Aluri.** Friends said he had been brooding over mounting financial stress that had left his family in Andhra struggling to repay the education loan they had taken for his postgraduation at DePaul University. Chandu Iraganaboyina scheduled emails and messages to several people, informing them of his decision to end his life over financial woes.

US to close its Gaza mission

Tel Aviv: A US military-run centre near Gaza that critics say failed in its mission to monitor the Israel-Hamas ceasefire and boost aid flows to besieged Palestinians is set to be shut by the Trump administration, sources said.

The closing of the Civil-Military Coordination Centre (CMCC) in Israel would mark the latest blow to Trump's Gaza plan, already undermined by repeated Israeli attacks since the Oct truce and a refusal by Hamas to lay down its arms. REUTERS

Iranian Nobel winner hospitalised

Beirut: Iran's imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi has been urgently transferred from prison to a hospital in northwestern Iran after a "catastrophic deterioration" of her health, her foundation said Friday.

The Narges Mohammadi Foundation said the Nobel Prize laureate had two episodes of complete loss of consciousness and a severe cardiac crisis. Earlier Friday, Mohammadi had fainted twice in prison in Zanjan in northwestern Iran, according to the foundation. She was believed to have suffered a heart attack in late March, according to her lawyers who visited her a few days after the incident. At the time, she appeared pale, underweight and needed a nurse to help her walk.

The hospital transfer comes "after 140 days of systematic medical neglect," since her arrest on Dec 12, the foundation said. Her family had been calling for her transfer to adequate medical facilities. AP

14 Iranian soldiers killed in demining op

Fourteen soldiers were killed Friday during operations to defuse unexploded ordnance in Iran's northwestern Zanjan province, local media reported. "Following enemy airstrikes using cluster bombs and aerial mines, parts of Zanjan province, including about 1,200 hectares of agricultural land, were contaminated by bombs," Fars news agency said. AFP

London hails new Banksy statue of man blinded by flag

London: London authorities said on Friday they welcomed a statue installed by street artist Banksy showing a man blinded by a flag that had blown into his face, and had no plans to remove it.

The statue was dropped into place near The Mall in the ceremonial heart of London from a low-loader trailer, according to a video posted on the artist's Instagram account on Thursday. The suited figure, whose face is covered by the billowing flag, has one foot in mid-air over the edge of the plinth, suggesting he is about to fall off.

It mirrors the style of nearby statues, including of King Edward VII on horseback, nurse Florence Nightingale and statesman Sidney Herbert. REUTERS

Musk grilled over his AI profits

Elon Musk sparred with lawyers for a third day Thursday at his California trial against OpenAI, struggling to explain why his own for-profit AI empire differs from the one he is trying to take down.

"Few answers are going to be complete, especially when you cut me off all the time," the visibly irritated multi-billionaire said as he resumed his duel Thursday with defence attorney for OpenAI William Savitt.

William sought to demonstrate that Musk is a mirror image of what he denounces: all of his companies — Tesla, Neuralink, X and his own AI firm xAI, recently absorbed into SpaceX — are for-profit, and the entrepreneur himself presents them as beneficial to humanity. "There's nothing wrong with having a for-profit organisation," Musk said, repeating his mantra: "You just can't steal a charity", meaning OpenAI should simply have started as a normal company from the outset. BLOOMBERG

TESLA COMPENSATION FOR ELON: $158BN

Tesla tallied up Elon Musk's annual compensation for the first time since shareholders approved his moonshot pay package, and it's a doozy: $158 billion. The 2025 total was revealed in a regulatory filing Thursday

Spending on Starship tops $15bn | SpaceX has spent over $15 billion developing its next generation Starship rocket, according to the company's IPO registration reviewed by Reuters, as Musk's space company nears a decade trying to perfect a fully reusable launch system

Tesla's SpaceX & xAI sales fetch $573m | Tesla made over half a billion dollars in revenue last year from selling products to two of Musk's other companies, the carmaker disclosed in an annual filing

UK Hindu group in race to bid for a piece of faith land

Naomi Canton

London: When a Hindu charity discovered it could bid for a piece of land allocated for faith/community use in the new town of Northstowe in Cambridgeshire, the 150 Indian-origin Hindu families living there were thrilled as there is no Hindu temple for 40 miles, leaving them and thousands of Indian-origin Hindus living around Cambridge working in tech, science, at the hospital and university, with nowhere to worship.

The 0.25 hectares plot of land owned by the developer is being given to the council who will grant a 999-year lease to one faith/community group. Two bids were received — one by HSN and one by Northstowe Church Network in collaboration with Northstowe Muslims.

HSN proposes an interfaith, community and wellbeing hub for 79% of the space, that will include a kitchen, café, STEM, coding and yoga classes, etc., and two prayer rooms that all faiths can use.

South Cambridgeshire District Council's Cabinet will decide who to award the land to in June.

Jane Street doles out $2.7million payout per employee

Jane Street Group's journey to the top of Wall Street has been a lucrative ride for its workforce. The firm doled out $9.38 billion in compensation last year — more than double the amount in 2024 — as the market maker vaulted past its biggest Wall Street rivals, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified citing private information.

Jane Street's rise has been a boon for the employees and shareholders that have tagged along. On a per-employee basis, that equates to $2.68 million on average — almost seven times as much as rival Goldman Sachs. The market-making firm has become a giant in a corner of finance, helping to facilitate trades in assets from stocks to corporate bonds and exchange-traded funds. The company pulled in about $39.6 billion in trading revenue last year — a haul that outranked Wall Street banks and market-making peers.

RAINING MONEY

Jane Street's members' equity — or the firepower the company uses to support its trading operations without having to tap outside capital — has swelled nearly 2,000% since 2016 to $45 billion.

That funding provides a steady foundation for the firm to use by capitalising on market swings and piling into startups at early stages. It's also helped Jane Street score big on bets on Anthropic, the AI startup that's received offers for a new funding round that would value the company at about $800 billion or more. Jane Street also has more capacity it can tap thanks to loans, as well as bonds it issued in the public debt market.

A representative for Jane Street declined to comment.

Jane Street has been able to maintain its lead despite facing controversy in recent years. For example, in July, regulators in India accused the firm of manipulating markets while running what had once been one of its most lucrative trading strategies.

Jane Street has denied those allegations. BLOOMBERG

AI disruption: S'pore PM vows to back workers

Singapore PM Lawrence Wong warned of bigger disruptions amid uncertain global environment, from Iran war to the rapid rise of artificial intelligence. "Jobs will change, some will disappear, and the pace of change will be faster than anything we have seen before," he said in a May Day address Friday, referring to the impact of new technologies. "We may not be able to protect every job, but we will protect every worker," he said. BLOOMBERG

DAILY PLANET

AFP

SPRING IN AFGHANISTAN: Afghan men take a selfie amid flowering Common Poppy plants (different from opium variety) on a hillside in the Jalayer Valley of northern Afghanistan's Shirin Tagab district last week. Afghans in the north used to travel to see the bright red poppy flowers after celebrating Persian New Year, Nowruz. The Taliban govt, which follows a strict interpretation of Islamic law, has stopped such celebrations. The tradition of visiting the poppies, widely revered in poems and songs, has endured

Russian winner's Oscar statuette goes missing on flight

The Oscar statuette belonging to Pavel Talankin, the Russian director who won best documentarythis year for 'Mr. Nobody Against Putin', has gone missing after he was forced to check the award into hold luggage on a flight from New York to Germany, his co-director said.

Trump nominates Saphier for Surgeon General

US President Donald Trump pulled the nomination of wellness entrepreneur Casey Means to be US surgeon general and named Nicole Saphier, a radiologist, to replace her. The reversal is the second time Trump has withdrawn a pick for role of the nation's top doctor. In May, he announced Means would replace Fox News contributor Janette Nesheiwat shortly before her confirmation hearing.

US oil driller that sold no crude paid CEO $76m

The CEO of California oil driller Sable Offshore was awarded a $76 million pay package in 2025, making him one of the highest paid oil and gas industry leaders in the US even as his company sold no crude.

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"I DIDN'T EVEN REALISE I HAD GONE PAST MAHI BHAI (MS DHONI) IN THE RUN-SCORER'S LIST. PERSONAL MILESTONES ARE GOOD. THEY REASSURE ME THAT I AM ON THE RIGHT TRACK. BUT WHAT WOULD TRULY MAKE ME HAPPY IS WINNING AS MANY TROPHIES AS MS DHONI."
—KL Rahul | DC opening batter

Rahul keeps DC in the hunt

Batter's 75, Nissanka's Blazing Start Power Delhi Capitals Past Raj Royals' 225; Parag's 90 & Ferreira's Late Assault Go In Vain

Suhas.Nayse@timesofindia.com

Arvind Sharma

MAN IN FORM: KL Rahul bats against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur

Jaipur: KL Rahul gave Delhi Capitals' IPL playoff push a powerful lift on Friday night, anchoring a superb chase as the visitors hunted down 226 to beat Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium. For the second time in less than a week, Rajasthan failed to defend a 225-plus total on their home ground. Six days after Sunrisers Hyderabad chased down 229 here, Delhi produced another ruthless pursuit, finishing on 226/3 with five balls to spare.

On a surface that again offered little comfort to the bowlers, Rahul's 75 off 40 balls was the innings that gave Delhi control and composure. Pathum Nissanka supplied the early violence with a 33-ball 62 while Ashutosh Sharma and Tristan Stubbs completed the job with an unbeaten 49-run stand after Rajasthan briefly threatened a late twist.

Chasing a daunting 226, Delhi began as if the target was merely a number. Nissanka, compact but explosive, took the attack to the Royals' bowlers from the outset. He struck six fours and three sixes, racing to his half-century off 23 balls and ensuring Delhi ended the Powerplay at a commanding 70/0.

Rahul, initially content to play second fiddle, gradually moved through the gears. The opening pair added 110 in just 9.3 overs, breaking the back of the chase before Rajasthan could settle into their defensive plans. Nissanka's dismissal came against the run of play. Attempting a reverse sweep against Ravindra Jadeja, he was trapped in front by a straighter delivery. But by then Delhi were already well ahead of the asking rate.

At 113/1 after 10 overs, the Capitals had the chase under firm control. Nitish Rana then kept the tempo high with a brisk 33 off 17 balls, ensuring Rajasthan could not claw their way back through the middle overs. Rana eventually fell while chasing a wide delivery from Tushar Deshpande, edging behind to leave Delhi 171/2 in the 15th over.

Delhi's clinical chase overshadowed a stirring captain's innings from Royals captain Riyan Parag earlier. Under pressure after a lean run and copping a penalty for vaping inside the dressing room, Parag responded with one of the finest innings of his IPL career. Walking in at 12/2 in the second over, he made 90 off 50 balls to lift Rajasthan to 225/6 after they had chosen to bat first.

The Royals had started disastrously. Yashasvi Jaiswal launched Mitchell Starc over square leg for six, but the Australian left-arm pacer struck back immediately, dismissing him caught and bowled. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi began with a crisp boundary but was bowled by Kyle Jamieson for four. From 12/2, Parag and Dhruv Jurel rebuilt the innings with a 102-run stand for the third wicket. Jurel's 42 off 30 balls provided stability while Parag mixed restraint with clean power. Parag reached his half-century off 32 deliveries.

However, Jaipur's batting-friendly surface had the final say.

62 Pathum Nissanka has recorded his maiden fifty in the IPL.

17 KL Rahul has received his 17th Man of the Match award in the IPL.

SCOREBOARD

RR: Y Jaiswal c and b Starc 6, V Sooryavanshi b Jamieson 4, D Jurel c Stubbs b Axar 42, R Parag c Axar b Starc 90, R Jadeja c Ashutosh b Starc 20, D Ferreira not out 47, S Dubey c Ashutosh b Natarajan 6, J Archer not out 1; **Extras** (lb3, w6)**: 9; Total (6 wkts): 225; FoW:** 1-6, 2-12, 3-114, 4-167, 5-168, 6-208; **Bowling:** Starc 4-0-40-3, Jamieson 4-0-48-1, Axar 4-0-39-1, Yadav 4-0-41-0, Natarajan 4-0-54-1.

DC: P Nissanka lbw b Jadeja 62, KL Rahul c Ferreira b Archer 75, N Rana c Jurel b Deshpande 33, T Stubbs not out 18, A Sharma not out 25; **Extras (b4, lb1, w7): 13; Total (3 wkts, 19.1 ovrs): 226; FoW:** 1-110, 2-171, 3-177; **Bowling:** Archer 4-0-46-1, Burger 3-0-41-0, Deshpande 4-0-38-1, Brijesh 3.1-0-35-0, Bishnoi 2-0-28-0, Jadeja 3-0-33-1

Result: DC won by 7 wickets

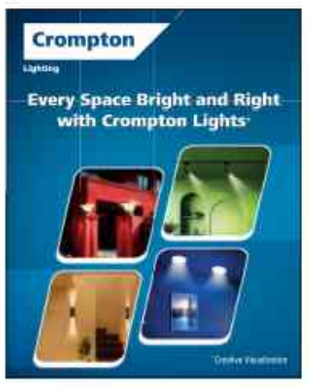
226 runs chased by DC, their most successful run chase in the IPL. Their previous best was 211/9 while chasing a target of 210 against Lucknow Super Giants in Vizag on March 24, 2025.

110 runs put on by Nissanka & Rahul, DC's maiden century stand for the first wicket vs Raj Royals. The previous best was 72 between Shikhar Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw in Jaipur in 2019.

1 Yashasvi Jaiswal has become the first batter to hit a six off the first ball of an IPL innings four times.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	8	6	1	1	1.043	13
RCB	9	6	3	0	1.420	12
SRH	9	6	3	0	0.832	12
RR	10	6	4	0	0.510	12
GT	9	5	4	0	-0.192	10
DC	9	4	5	0	-0.895	8
CSK	8	3	5	0	-0.121	6
KKR	8	2	5	1	-0.751	5
MI	8	2	6	0	-0.784	4
LSG	8	2	6	0	-1.106	4



'SKY' FALL HITS MUMBAI HARD

Suryakumar's Batting Woes Have Affected Struggling MI, Who Run Into CSK Today

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Chennai: May seems to be the month of inconsequential Clasicos. While the protagonists of the original — Barcelona and Real Madrid — play next Sunday at Nou Camp with the Catalan giants having all but wrapped up La Liga, the Indian version at the MAC this Saturday, too, is probably only of academic interest.

Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians are three and four wins away respectively from the leading pack of four and it will need a miracle for these underperforming giants to make the playoffs.

While the teams may not have much to play for other than pride, there's quite a bit at stake for the players. On top of that list is Suryakumar Yadav, India's T20 World Cup winning captain. Despite being hailed for his captaincy, there was no doubt that he had a poor World Cup with 157 runs in seven matches, 84 of those runs coming against the USA in the first game itself.

Right after the World Cup, Surya spoke about his ambitions of leading the side to the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028. But the way things are shaping up for him in the IPL, that looks a far cry.

The 35-year-old is enduring one of his worst IPL seasons since 2021, when he managed 317 runs at an average of 22.64. This year, with the team needing the senior pro to stand up and deliver, 'SKY' is faltering time and again, leaving MI in a deep hole. His 162 runs in eight games is way too less, especially when a batter is coming in at No. 3 or 4.

Mumbai Indians coach Mahela Jayawardene, though, jumped to his player's defence ahead of practice on Friday. "In practice, he's batting as well as anybody. And even in matches, he's hitting the ball well and the way he's gotten out a few times is quite unfortunate. A couple of times he got some good balls too," Jayawardene said, adding that he, as a batter, had gone through similar situations.

The coach insisted that Surya needs to "keep trusting his thought process and ability. He's that sort of a player; very unorthodox. We just keep encouraging him. He has had three, four brilliant years and a little run like this can happen. He'll still come up with a smile and play the same way he knows to play," the coach added.

But Surya knows that Shreyas Iyer is having an outstanding season for Punjab Kings and he can become a contender for not just his India spot, but his throne as well. That's added pressure and in a situation like that, a wounded CSK on a black-soil pitch at MAC with thousands shouting against you isn't the easiest proposition. But then, the right-hander has dealt with adversities in his long career and all his fans will hope that the 'Clasico' will mark the beginning of the return journey for the terrific T20 player.

51 Suryakumar's only fifty in the last 10 IPL innings was recorded vs DC in Delhi on Apr 4, 2026. —Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SURYAKUMAR IN IPL & T20 WC

	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
IPL	174	4473	103*	34.14	2	30	148.35
For KKR	54	608	60	22.51	0	1	131.88
For MI	120	3865	103*	37.16	2	29	151.33
IPL 2026	8	162	51	20.25	0	1	140.86
T20 WC	27	722	84*	36.1	0	6	150.73

Holder sprinkles 'stardust' on Gujarat Titans' campaign

'Perfect Storm': Team's Director Of Cricket Solanki Hails Allrounder's Contribution After Win Vs RCB

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Reuters

Jason Holder (centre) celebrates with Shubman Gill and Kagiso Rabada after taking Rajat Patidar's catch

Ahmedabad: Jason Holder had to wait for his chance at Gujarat Titans, but when it arrived, the West Indies allrounder gave the clearest reminder yet of why the franchise had invested Rs 7 crore in him at the auction. Brought into the XI in place of Glenn Phillips, Holder produced a decisive all-round display in Gujarat's four-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday.

The 34-year-old took 2/29, held three catches, including a rather controversial one, and then contributed with the bat in a 30-run stand with Rahul Tewatia as GT bowled RCB out for 155 and completed the chase with 25 balls to spare. Understandably, he was named Player of the Match.

For a Titans side that had traded Sherfane Rutherford to Mumbai Indians in the off-season and was looking for a reliable middle-order option who could also bowl, Holder's performance was a timely validation. "When we were pursuing Jason at the auction, it was with the mind to him being able to fulfill both roles, with the bat and ball, so he does offer us exactly that," GT's director of cricket Vikram Solanki said. "If you take a look over the last calendar year and perhaps a little bit longer than that, his numbers at five and six have been quite outstanding.

"Holder, of course, has all of the ability you need. Physically, he is a strong guy, has great reach and leverage as far as the bat is concerned, so all of the technicalities are covered off. He is now bringing an added dimension, that sprinkling of stardust, if you like, of being a really experienced campaigner. I think that's what's playing out," Solanki said.

Holder's impact was not restricted to his wickets. His catch to dismiss Patidar ended a 44-run stand and he later held sharp chances to send back Tim David and Krunal Pandya. With the bat, he helped steady the chase alongside Tewatia.

Solanki said Holder's growing understanding of his own game, built through years of international and franchise cricket, made him a valuable presence in pressure situations. "He has proven across the years, in international cricket and franchise cricket, how measured he is. He is only getting better," Solanki said. "Any player who has played for as long as he has around the world, led teams as he has, and been part of different teams starts to get an understanding of what should be done in any given situation. Jason is certainly doing that."

Holder has played 96 T20Is for West Indies and has captained the national side across formats. Solanki said that experience was also benefiting the younger GT players. "You often get individuals who have a good amount of experience who perhaps can't communicate it as well. Jason will always be willing to have conversations, whether it's with the coaching group or with the young guys around, to impart a little bit of his experience," Solanki said, adding, "That's the perfect storm — a skilled cricketer who has experience, wants to be part of a team, is a thorough gentleman and is very articulate when he speaks."

Hussey feels Kartik deserves longer rope

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WEATHER 31°C

Chennai: When Chennai Super Kings shelled out a staggering 14.2 crore each for fresh faces Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma at last Dec's IPL mini auction, it turned heads. The two even became the joint-most-expensive uncapped Indian players ever signed at an IPL auction.

For a franchise known for the 'dad's army' tag and stability, there's been a clear shift of late. Injuries have played a part but the churn in the squad is hard to miss, with youngsters like Ayush Mhatre, Urvil Patel, Prashant and Kartik all getting a run. The franchise has been trading its signature settled core for a long-term investment, betting that blooding these youth now will yield dividends for years to come.

CSK batting coach Michael Hussey acknowledged that the team is in a phase of transition. "In a lot of ways, it's quite a new team. You know, there's quite a few new players there that have come in, some good young talent that we want to expose to some games as well. Ideally speaking, we'd love to settle in on an 11 or a 12 that we're very comfortable with and then just sort of let those guys really grow into their roles. So hopefully, we can string a bit of form together, a few wins together, and then hopefully we'll have that confidence to stick with that same sort of team moving through."

That approach is evident in the way they have persisted with 20-year-old Kartik. The wicketkeeper-batter has endured a lean run in his first five matches. Yet, Hussey remains confident that he is just one game away from finding his stride. "He's a great talent; I hope we can see him here at CSK for the next five, 10 years. He is ambitious and wants to do well. We'd love to give him as much opportunity as possible and watch him really grow into that CSK shirt," he said.

'RCB wanted closer look at Jason catch'

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BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

Ahmedabad: Royal Challengers Bengaluru seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar said his team wanted the umpires to take a closer look at Jason Holder's catch to dismiss captain Rajat Patidar.

Patidar's pick-up shot off left-arm seamer Arshad Khan ballooned towards fine leg, where Holder covered good ground from deep square leg before completing a one-handed catch. However, as the tall allrounder landed, his momentum took him into the turf and the ball appeared to get close to the ground, prompting debate over whether the catch had been completed cleanly.

The dismissal broke an important stand and triggered a slide as RCB were bowled out for 155. GT chased down the target with 25 balls to spare. "I wasn't there. But what I can see is that the ball does touch the ground. But I don't know what the umpire told them. I don't know whether it's something within the law or whatever. I have no idea about that. But we wanted the umpire to have a closer look at that," Bhuvneshwar said.

Reflecting on the result, Bhuvneshwar said RCB's bowlers had not done too much wrong, though he acknowledged that Josh Hazlewood had an off day.

"I wouldn't say anything went wrong. They batted well. Hazlewood had an off day and it happens to anyone in a long tournament. But the way we are bowling in the Powerplay, we are happy. It's just one of the games in a long tournament in which somebody had an off day, but we tried our best," he said.

Asked about RCB's batting, he admitted the side had fallen short. RCB also chose not to use Krunal Pandya's left-arm spin but Bhuvneshwar said the conditions made them persist with seam. "We had Romario Shepherd as the third seamer, and so we wanted to take a chance with him. Suyash is someone who is not easy to pick and so we wanted to get wickets as quickly as possible. So that's why Krunal didn't bowl."

I did not work consistently on my fitness after injury: Rashid

Ahmedabad: Following Gujarat Titans' win over RCB, spinner Rashid Khan spoke about his recovery from a back injury, saying he deliberately gave himself more time to complete rehabilitation and regain full fitness.

Rashid has been facing back problems for a while, having undergone surgery after the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup and returning to internationals in March 2024.

"It was a back injury and, given the energy I bowl with in my action and run-up, I needed to work consistently on my fitness after that injury, which, to be honest, I did not do. My rehab did not go as well as it should have. I only had about two to two-and-a-half months to get back on the field and, since those were Afghanistan matches, I had to play," Rashid told JioHotstar.

"So, after the IPL last year, I wanted to give myself and my body more time to recover. It is all going well now and hopefully it continues," he said. ANI

GALLERY

Diksha lies 4th

Buoyed by a hole-in-one Diksha Dagar was off to a flying start with a 4-under 68 in the opening round of the inaugural MCB Ladies Classic in Port Louis, Mauritius on Friday. Diksha holed out for the ace on the Par-3 11th and was lying tied-fourth. Tvesa Malik also got off to a good start with 2-under 70 and was tied-20th while Hitaashee Bakshi (71) was tied-30th and Vani Kapoor (78) was T-108 and left needing a very low second round to make the 36-hole cut. The field was led by gathe Laisne who fired an 8-under 64.

Fine start for Sandhu: Yuvraj Sandhu fired a 3-under 69 to be inside the Top-10 at the Turkish Airlines Open in Antalya. Shubhankar Sharma had a round of 2-under 70 to be Tied-22nd. Sweden's Mikael Lindberg produced a fast finish to card a bogey-free 66 and hold a one-shot lead after day one.

Jensi storms into semis: Fourteen-year-old Jensi Kanabar from Gujarat reached the semifinals of the $15,000 ITF women's tennis event in New Delhi on Friday. The Indian beat Arina Arifullina 6-3, 6-3.

England lead over India in women's ODI rankings: England have widened their lead over India in the women's ODI rankings by four-points. England are No. 2, India are third while Australia top the rankings.

Ambrish replaces Mavi: Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday picked RS Ambrish as an injury replacement for Shivam Mavi for the remainder of the IPL. Ambrish, who is a right-arm medium pacer and a left-handed batter, will join SRH for Rs 30 lakh.

Knicks advance: OG Anunoby scored 26 points in the first half to lead New York 140-89 victory over the Atlanta Hawks as the Knicks won their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series 4-2.

AFI opens door for Russian athletes

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New Delhi: In a move likely to raise eyebrows across the athletics community, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has entered into a "cooperation agreement" with Russian Athletics, potentially allowing Russian athletes to compete in India's domestic meets.

The agreement, finalised during a recent visit by a Russian delegation to India, lays out a framework for expanded sporting ties, including participation in national competitions, joint training camps, and coaching exchanges. While AFI has not officially detailed the arrangement, Russian Athletics confirmed that its athletes could soon travel to India to compete and chase qualifying marks for global events.

"Russian Athletics is considering the possibility of sending athletes to compete in India. The agreement was reached during an official visit by the Russian delegation. A set of measures has been agreed upon to expand sports cooperation, including participation in national competitions in India," the Russian body stated.

The delegation was led by executive director Boris Yaryshevskiy and secretary general Alexander Djordjadze, who described the pact as a "foundation for long-term cooperation." Indian representatives at the discussions included Asian Athletics Association vice-president Lalit Bhanot and AFI treasurer B.E. Stanley Jones.

The collaboration also opens the door for Indian athletes to train and compete in Russia, particularly in disciplines such as road running. AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla, speaking from Gaborone, Botswana, said the federation's position aligns with Indian government's stance.

Nanda headlines India's historic 4x100m entry

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Srabani Nanda will turn 35 next week. At an age when many athletes have long stepped away from competition, Nanda continues to chase excellence with undiminished hunger. After winning silver in women's 4x100m relay at the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, last year, she has now been selected in the Indian team for the World Relays in Gaborone, Botswana (May 2-3).

WORLD RELAYS

The Odisha sprinter has been named in both the women's 4x100m relay squad and the mixed relay team. This appearance carries added significance since it marks the first time India's women's 4x100m relay team has qualified for the World Relays.

Rather than being weighed down by age, Nanda draws inspiration from Justin Gatlin, who famously defeated Usain Bolt at the World Championships when he was 35.

"I spent several years in Jamaica, and seeing athletes compete at the highest level well into their 30s really shaped my mindset. I still remember Justin Gatlin beating Usain Bolt at the World Championships when he was 35. Moments like that showed that age doesn't have to be a barrier," said Nanda, who trained under Steven Francis at the MVP Track Club in Kingston from 2019 to 2022.

"Watching how they train, how they think, how they react to competition taught me a lot. So I don't feel my age is holding me back in any way. I've trained clean throughout my career."

Physically, she believes she is in peak condition. "I don't feel my body has aged. My muscles still feel young and there's nothing I did earlier that I can't do now. In fact, with more experience, I now focus more on technique, nutrition and recovery," said Nanda, who made her international debut at the 2007 IAAF World Youth Championships in Ostrava.

Evaluation test faces scrutiny as boxers gear up for crucial trials

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New Delhi: With the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) outlining its selection criteria for upcoming international events, several boxers set to compete in the trials at NIS Patiala (May 11-15) have quietly approached the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to raise concerns over the federation's evaluation system.

At the centre of the discontent is the 'assessment test' format, where bout results are not declared immediately. Instead, performances are reviewed later by a BFI-appointed selection committee, a process that has left many athletes uneasy. Boxers have long pushed for open judging, where winners are announced at the end of each bout.

The trials will determine India's squads for events like the CWG, Asian Games, World Boxing Cup 2, and other international competitions until the next evaluation cycle.

Sources within SAI confirmed that complaints have been received regarding ad-hoc selections, the conduct of competition and the broader assessment policy. "We have taken cognisance of these concerns and are closely monitoring the trials at NIS Patiala," an official said, adding that outcomes will be reviewed before any further action is taken.

SNAP SHOTS

Verstappen says rule tweaks only a tickle

Max Verstappen said he was taking his time in deciding his Formula One future and called recent rule changes merely a 'tickle' rather than what was really required. "I still have time and I'm taking my time," Verstappen, 28, told reporters on Thursday ahead of the Miami Grand Prix weekend.

Nishikori to retire: Kei Nishikori will hang up his racquet at the end of the 2026 season, the 36-year-old said on Friday, bringing down the curtain on a professional career that saw him break new ground for Japanese tennis. Nishikori became the first Japanese player to reach a Grand Slam singles final at the 2014 US Open and was the second Asian man after Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan to make it into the top 10.

Oly bronze medallist Newman suspended: Olympic bronze medallist pole vaulter Alysha Newman has been suspended for 20 months for whereabouts failures in relation to anti-doping testing, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Friday. "The AIU has banned Alysha Newman (Canada) for 20 months from 3 December 2025 for Whereabouts Failures. DQ results from 23 August 2025," the anti-doping body posted on social media.

Jamshedpur down Goa: Hosts Jamshedpur FC rode on late goals by Mohammed Sanand and Madih Talal to secure a crucial 2-0 victory against FC Goa in the Indian Super League on Friday. Mohammed Sanan (83) broke the deadlock before Madih Talal sealed the win deep into stoppage time (90+). The win, their sixth from 11 matches, took Jamshedpur to the top of the standings, one point clear of Mohun Bagan who have two games in hand. The Red Miners moved to the top of the table with 21 points from 11 matches, while FC Goa slipped to third with 19 points. Talal was named the Player of the Match.

Salah ruled out of Man Utd clash: Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah will miss Sunday's Premier League clash against rivals Manchester United due to a muscle injury, but manager Arne Slot confirmed on Friday that he was expected to return before the end of the season. "As we know from Mo (Salah), he is always working incredibly hard when he is fit but also when he is injured to be back as soon as possible," Slot told reporters. "We expect him to be back for the final part of the season but not for Sunday (against Man Utd)."

Ochoa set to hang up gloves: Guillermo Ochoa, one of the most iconic goalkeepers in Mexican football history, will hang up his gloves immediately after the World Cup, according to journalist Fabrizio Romano. "Memo Ochoa will play his sixth World Cup representing Mexico, as the legendary goalkeeper will be part of the squad. Ochoa will retire from professional football immediately after, leaving his club and the national team," Romano, who specialises in news about football transfers, wrote on X. Ochoa appeared to confirm the news himself by reposting Romano's message.

INDIA STORM INTO SEMIS

Ayush Seals The Deal After Wins By Lakshya & Sat-Chi

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Pics: BWF

JUBILANT: The Indian team celebrate their win over Chinese Taipei **Right:** Ayush Shetty

India rode on the brilliance of Ayush Shetty, Lakshya Sen and Satwiksairaj Rankreddy-Chirag Shetty duo to trounce Chinese Taipei 3-0 in the quarterfinals of the Thomas Cup in Horsens, Denmark on Friday. The 2022 champions play the winners of the match between France and Japan in the semis on Saturday.

The moment Ayush stunned reigning All England champion Lin Chun-Yi 21-16, 21-17, Shetty stormed the court and the rest of the team followed as the Indians celebrated their entry to the semifinals for the second time in tournament's history.

Lakshya's lion-hearted display secured the first point for India. He

THOMAS CUP

saved two match points before dominating Chou Tien Chen in the third game to win 18-21, 22-20, 21-17. From 18-20, Lakshya scored four points to push the match into the decider. Lakshya was on the brink at 17-19 and 18-20 in the third after doing well to overcome deficits of 7-13, 12-16 in the second. Losing the second game rattled Chou, who gave up the fight after the change of courts in the decider.

"After losing the first set, I stopped thinking too much. I just attacked a bit more and was more proactive towards the end of the second. I involved him in more rallies," Lakshya said. Satwik-Chirag worked hard for one hour and 15 minutes to beat Chiu Hsiang Chieh and Wang Chi-Lin 23-21, 19-21, 21-12.

The Asian Games champions trailed for most of the first game. At 18-20, they applied relentless pressure with sharp returns. Chiu-Wang committed two unforced errors, hitting one outside the court and the next into the net. After saving two game points the Indians wrapped up the game. The second game was too close to call as Chiu-Wang managed to win three straight points from 18-19. In the decider, Satwik-Chirag started with an 8-3 lead, made it 11-5 before winning. Chirag said that Lakshya's victory inspired them. "The way he came back from 18-20 was great. It really charged us up," Chirag said. "We had the right strategy but the execution was not perfect," said Satwik. "At 17-19 we decided to play the full court, open up and see what they come up with. We kept our calm and that worked in the second and third games," he added.

While the seniors sweated it out, 20-year-old Ayush dominated Lin. "He is the All-England champion and he has a really good attack. The game plan was to attack and not give him many chances," Ayush said. "We believe that we can go all the way. We have a solid team and we believe we can do it."

ISL clubs oppose steep hike in entry fee, threaten withdrawal

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Panaji: Indian Super League (ISL) clubs have told the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the sports ministry that a "significant number of clubs" will be compelled to reconsider their continued participation in the top tier, if the federation implements the proposed model in its current form.

In its recent meeting with AIFF representatives and officials, clubs were informed that in addition to the ongoing commercial tender process, the federation intends to levy an "entry fee" on all participating clubs from next season, ostensibly to offset the loss of revenue following the departure of the erstwhile commercial partner. FSDL, the previous commercial rights holders, paid AIFF Rs 50 crore annually for all commercial rights and conducted the top tier league on its own. Now, the governing body is guaranteed approx. Rs. 12.4 crore annually in "administrative fees" if Genius Sports gets the nod. Club officials said the understanding during the meeting was that each of the 14 clubs would pay Rs 3 crore to make up for the deficit. The AIFF has, however, refuted claims that the clubs would have to pay Rs 3 crore each.

BRUNO AND THE ART OF ASSISTS

Manchester United captain **Bruno Fernandes** is one assist away from the single-season Premier League record shared by Thierry Henry and Kevin De Bruyne. With four games to go, Fernandes could reach that milestone on Sunday against Liverpool with a familiar mix of urgency, edge and invention...

19 ASSISTS in Premier League

1 ASSIST away from all-time single-season PL record

Record holders:

Thierry Henry
20 ASSISTS (2002-03)

Kevin De Bruyne
20 ASSISTS (2019-20)

High-wire creativity:
70 assists for Manchester United across 7 seasons for Fernandes

Broke David Beckham's club PL single-season **assist record:**

Beckham (1999-2000)	**15** assists
Fernandes (2025-26)	**19** assists and counting
All-time Premier League assists	**162** by Ryan Giggs

Wood's penalty hands Forest win

Reuters

ON TARGET: Chris Wood

Nottingham: Nottingham Forest's Chris Wood smashed a penalty into the top corner to secure a 1-0 victory over Aston Villa in the first leg of their all-English Europa League semi-final on Thursday.

The striker converted in the 71st minute, giving goalkeeper Emi Martinez no

FOOTBALL

chance with a penalty awarded after defender Lucas Digne raised his arms and handled the ball as Forest's Omari Hutchinson tried to scoop it back from the byline.

In a meeting of two clubs chasing an end to trophy droughts stretching back decades, the result sends Vitor Pereira's side to Villa Park for the May 7 second leg with a narrow advantage. Braga or Freiburg await the winners in the final in Istanbul on May 20, with the Portuguese side leading the Germans 2-1 from Thursday's home first leg.

Forest's win stretched their unbeaten run to nine games in all competitions as the 1979 and 1980 European champions enjoy some momentum after battling relegation from the Premier League all season.

PALACE CLOSE IN ON FINAL

Crystal Palace took a giant step towards the UEFA Conference League final in their first season of European football with a 3-1 semifinal, first leg win over Shakhtar Donetsk on Thursday.

Results (semifinals, first legs): Europa League: Braga 2 (Tiknaz 8, Dorgeles 90+2) bt Freiburg 1 (Grifo 16); Nottingham Forest 1 (Wood 71-pen) bt Aston Villa 0. **Conference League:** Rayo Vallecano 1 (Alemao 54) bt Strasbourg 0; Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Ocheretko 47) lost to Crystal Palace 3 (Sarr 1, Kamada 58, Larsen 84). AGENCIES

Sinner cruises into Madrid final

AP

World No. 1 **Jannik Sinner** powered into the Madrid Open final with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Arthur Fils on Friday, keeping alive his bid for a record fifth successive ATP Masters 1000 title. The 24-year-old claimed his 27th win at Masters 1000 level, having lifted trophies in Paris last year and at Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo in 2026. Sinner also became only the fourth player to reach the final of all nine ATP Masters 1000 tournaments — after Roger Fe-

TENNIS

derer, Novak Djokovic, and Rafael Nadal — and the youngest to achieve the feat.

"Very happy about the general performance today," Sinner said during his on-court interview. "I am trying to play the best possible tennis I can play, in this moment. Today was a very good day in the office." The Italian controlled the baseline exchanges and mixed in deft drop shots to hand Fils his first defeat on the surface this year. The Frenchman offered more resistance in the second set, varying his play to stay in touch, but Sinner secured the decisive break before closing out the match in 85 minutes.

"I tried to play very aggressive. I felt very comfortable on return. In (the) second set, he started to serve better, so it became a bit difficult," Sinner said. "But I knew it before the match, he's one of the best players in the world at the moment. I am very happy I've played against him. It means a lot to me." REUTERS

All-round Vignesh stars with six-wicket haul

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Vignesh Srikanth stole the limelight with a six-wicket haul to power Wadiyar Cricket Club to a 49-run win over Friends Union Cricket Club (1) in the KSCA U-16 Inter-club tournament here recently.

Opting to bat, Wadiyar were bowled out for 218 in 49.4

KSCA TOURNEY

overs with Pratham Rao top-scoring with a 70-ball 46. Wadiyar batters struggled to stitch partnerships as Aaryansinh Chavda led the attack with a three-wicket haul. In reply, Friends folded up for 169 in 25 overs despite Aaryansinh's quick-fire century. Aaryansinh kept the board ticking with a 59-ball 115, but Vignesh's solid effort saw the rest of the batters return in quick succession.

Brief scores: Wadiyar CC: 218 in 49.4 overs (Vaibhav Sathish 33, Pratham Rao 46, Vignesh Srikanth 37, Yashas Bongu 43; Aaryansinh Chavda 3-35) bt **FUCC (1): 169 in 25 overs** (Aaryansinh 115 (51b; 18x4, 4x6); Vignesh 6-26, Pratham 3-27). **Swastic Union CC (2): 214 in 46.1 overs** (Hannan Ahmad 100 (103b; 11x4); Sampath Kumar 3-40) lost to **Dooravani Cricketers (1) (U-16): 215/8 in 47.4 overs** (Ayaan Mohammad 51, Chirayu Mehta 73; Vivek Seervi 3-30). **National Cricketers: 262/8 in 50 overs** (Amogh Athreyasa 69, Muhammed Luqhman 62, Yashwin Reddy 42, Surya Sendhil 28; Deghul MN 2-46, SA Nirjith 2-39, Dhruvdinesh TV 2-42) bt **Chintamani SA: 137/9 in 31.2 overs** (Ruhaan Shaikh 44 n.o; Darsh Raikar 5-27).

Engrades CC: 325 in 49.4 overs (Samvit Shastri 93, Sriganesh M 37, Mullamuri Santhosh 72; Mohammed Nihan 3-53) bt **Jayanagar Cricketers: 139 in 35.3 overs** (Hashmath Ullah 36; Rivansh Mohapatra 3-11). **Jawans CC: 227/9 in 50 overs** (Shaurya Yadav 72, Pruthvi T 42, Arnav Rajiv 33 n.o; Ayush Barath 2-34, Nirav Shetty 2-44, Manav Jain 2-33) bt **YMCA CC (3): 124 in 35.5 overs** (Karthick Veeran 29, Ruthvik R 38 n.o; Ibrahim Khan 3-15).

Mount Joy CC: 212 in 37.1 overs (Pranav Avrur 59, Srijan Gouda 42, Shashank Arun 32; Shreyansh Goyal 2-21, Nikith Harsha 2-28, Samarth Karumbaiah 2-26) bt **Wilson Garden CC: 139 in 29 overs** (Lohithaksha R 43, Samarth 53 n.o; Aniirudh Prasanna 3-34, Smaran Bharadwaj 4-35, Sharav Koundinya 3-25). **Sapphire CC: 136 in 39.2 overs** (Viresh Moktan 29; Roopesh Gowda 2-13, Nandeesha MS 2-14) lost to **Sangam CA: 136/2 in 27.3 overs** (Arnav Joshi 60, Sidarth 50 n.o).

Social Cricketers: 229/4 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 65, Hridaan Sai 49, Agastya Khashu 43n.o; Rahul M 32) bt **Sir Syed Cricketers: 171 in 43.2 overs** (Suraj Kumar 32; Siddhant Srikant 3-32).

FUCC (2): 198 in 49.5 overs (Samarth Srikantha 43, Arnav Kalyan 42, Vyom Vijay 52; Dhruv Nambiar 3-18) bt **Freelancers CC: 196 in 37.4 overs** (Nipun Devaiah 33, Thaman Sai 29, Viphula Gowda 39; Calvin Xavier 4-49, Jakkula Kumar 3-39).

City Cricketers (2): 196 in 49.2 overs (Hithvik Reddy 28, Sahas NP 52, Yashas Reddy 36; Preetham Gowda 4-43) lost to **Vivekanagar Cricketers: 197/4 in 37.3 overs** (Sachit Galatagi 80, Likhith Jadhav 31n.o; Satvik K 2-38).

Deep Respect prevails

Bengaluru: Satish Narredu-trained Deep Respect, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the International Labour Day Trophy, the feature event on the opening day of the Sumer races here on Friday.

1.Camino Plate (Div-II) 1200M: Zayana 1, Mystical Queen 2, Embosom 3, Star Of The Future 4. 2-1/4l, 8l, 4l. T:114.56. Tote: Rs 16 (W). 11, 14, 25 (P). Fc: Rs 55. Q: Rs 29. Shp: Rs 32. Thp: Rs 48. Trinalla: Rs 270, 240. Exacta: Rs 5525, 3382. **2.Epsom Plate (Div-II) 1300M:** Fredenika 1, Queendom 2, Vibrant Queen 3, Imperador 4. 2-1/4l, 2-1/2l, 2-1/4l. T:119.43. Tote: Rs 45 (W). 23, 10, 13 (P). Fc: Rs 145. Q: Rs 60. Shp: Rs 30. Thp: Rs 38. Trinalla: Rs 589, 235. Exacta: Rs 2265, 1025. **3. Camino Plate (Div-I) 1200M:** Zephyrine 1, Royal Jewel 2, Windcleaver 3, Recreator 4. Not Run: Agrima & Blue Saint. 2-1/2l, 3/4l, 3l. T:116.10. Tote: Rs 12 (W). 11, 10, 17 (P). Fc: Rs 16. Q: Rs 16. Shp: Rs 25. Thp: Rs 45. Trinalla: Rs 62, 36. Exacta: Rs 248, 194. **4. Pattadakal Plate 1400M:** Bellavvita 1. Thrill Of Brazil 2, She Rules 3, Golden Time 4. 2l, 3-1/4l, 1l. T:1.28.00. Tote: Rs 34 (W). 14, 13, 14 (P). Fc: Rs 76. Q: Rs 33. Shp: Rs 24. Thp: Rs 44. Trinalla: Rs 246, 124. Exacta: Rs 1979, 1074.

5. International Labour Day Trophy 1100M: Deep Respect 1. Legacy Field 2, Burevestnik 3, Portieux 4. 1/2l, 1-1/2l, 1-1/2l. T:1.08.61. Tote: Rs 61 (W). 13, 12, 11 (P). Fc: Rs 438. Q: Rs 156. Shp: Rs 21. Thp: Rs 85. Trinalla: Rs 213, 87. Exacta: Rs 1231, 627. **6. Usha Stud Plate 1400M:** Tolkien 1. D Fronx 2, Eagle Eye 3, Winfield 4. 1-1/4l, 1-3/4l, 4l. T:1.26.25. Tote: Rs 37 (W). 11, 85, 10 (P). Fc: Rs 1126. Q: Rs 515. Shp: Rs 159. Thp: Rs 68. Trinalla: Rs 1843, 267. Exacta: Rs 12,049, 10,328. **7. Epsom Plate (Div I) 1300M:** Hazel 1. Auctav 2, Larissa 3, Magstic Persona 4. Lnk, Hd, 6-1/2l. T:1.20.38. Tote: Rs 26 (W). 12, 32, 11 (P). Fc: Rs 583. Q: Rs 754. Shp: Rs 127. Thp: Rs 45. Trinalla: Rs 939, 227. Exacta: Rs 13,020, 5,580.

Jackpot: Rs 4,235. **Runner-up:** Rs 835. **Mini Jackpot:** Rs 4641. **First Treble:** Rs 393. **Second Treble:** Rs 943. TNN

Chethan Shivakumar

CHAMPIONS: Mounts BC players celebrate their win in Bengaluru on Friday

Mounts, Vimanapura triumph

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Devishi (14 points) and Kenisha (13) led the charge as Mounts BC clinched the title with a 62-45 win over Bangalore Vanguards in the final of the U-13 girls' basketball championship for the BS Narayan Memorial Trophy here on Friday.

BASKETBALL

The match began with Mounts taking an early lead and maintaining it through their strong coordination. Their teamwork helped them outplay Vanguards' defence as they secured both offensive and defensive rebounds effectively. Vanguards improved in the final quarter, but it was not enough.

In the boys' final, Vimanapura defeated MCHS 47-26 to successfully defend their title. Vimanapura controlled the pace of the match from the outset, scoring five baskets without allowing MCHS to open their account. By the 10th minute, the score stood at 13-5, and they maintained this momentum throughout. Rakshit was the top performer for the winners with 18 points. **Results: Boys (final):** Vimanapura 47 (Rakshith 18, Nirvair 12) bt MCHS 26 (Darsh) HT: 27-11; **3rd place:** Vanguards 51 (Chayank 14, Neil 13) bt PPC 38 (Narrun 9, Rakshak 6) HT: 25-24. **Girls (final):** Mounts BC 62 (Devishi 14, Kenisha 13) bt Vanguards 45 (Aarushi 23, Harshada 13) HT: 36-13 **3rd place:** MCHS 46 (Kannira 17, Vanshika 13) bt Beagles BC 28 (Ayra 12, Lochana 7) HT: 23-13. — **Jia Khosla**

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NOT SCREEN TIME, INDIA'S REAL DIGITAL STRESS IS DEPENDENCE

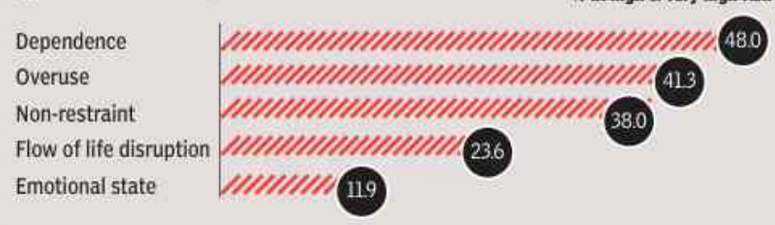
A TOI-CENABH* poll suggests India's digital stress runs deeper than just high screen time. Dependence and loss of control are the bigger warning signs, especially among youth

India's digital problem may be less about hours spent online and more about the grip devices have on everyday life. In a poll of over 20,000 respondents, 25.7% fell in the high or very high-risk category for digital dependence, even though the overall score remained in the moderate

range. The strongest warning signs were not just heavy use, but dependence, overuse and loss of control. Younger Indians, especially those aged 15 to 35, emerged as the most exposed group, suggesting that for many users the challenge is no longer simply screen time, but how deeply digital habits are shaping daily behaviour.

1 BEYOND SCREEN TIME: DEPENDENCE SCORES HIGHER THAN EVERY OTHER FORM OF DIGITAL STRAIN

The biggest problem is not emotional distress or even sheer overuse, but dependence itself — the extent to which digital devices have become hard to do without. Participants were assessed for digital addiction (using Mentacy's Digital Addiction Scale) across five dimensions:



DEPENDENCE: A strong psychological attachment, such as keeping devices close while sleeping or feeling uneasy when they are lost. Feeling anxious if it is misplaced or taking it with you even when leaving a room for a short time

OVERUSE: Using digital devices excessively or outside of their intended purposes. Includes habits like checking your phone during meals, while in social gatherings, or while doing other work

NON-RESTRAINT: Inability to control or reduce time spent on digital devices. Reflects a struggle to regulate usage or having made unsuccessful attempts to cut back on screen time

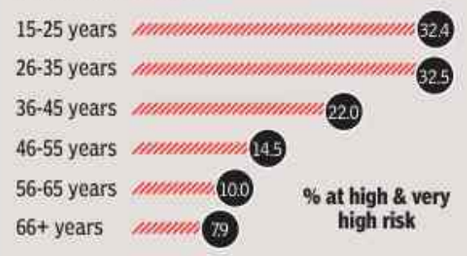
FLOW OF LIFE DISRUPTION: When digital use interferes with daily responsibilities, social interactions, or leads to neglect of the surrounding environment.

EMOTIONAL STATE: Developing negative emotions (anxiety, anger, unhappiness) when unable to use digital devices. Feeling bored, annoyed or angry when disconnected, or feeling that your primary source of happiness comes from using these devices

Indicates that your digital habits may cause you to miss real-world opportunities, neglect school or home duties

2 YOUNG ADULTS AT THE CENTRE: ABOUT ONE IN THREE IN 15-35 AGE BAND IS IN HIGH-RISK ZONE

Roughly one in three respondents aged 15-35 fall in the high-risk category, and the risk then declines steadily with age. That makes this less an only-teen story and more a wider young-adult story, spanning both students and working-age users



3 HOW THE PROBLEM CHANGES WITH AGE: AMONG THE YOUNGEST, OVERUSE DOMINATES; BY 26-35, DEPENDENCE TAKES OVER

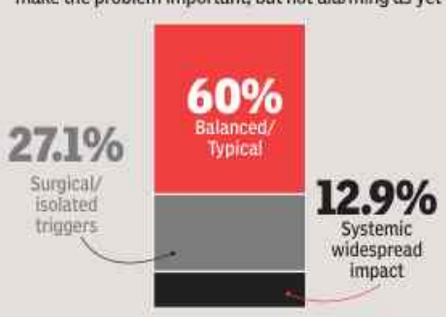
Among 15- to 25-year-olds, overuse is the most prominent trait. But in the 26-35 bracket, dependence becomes the highest-scoring dimension. That suggests the issue may evolve from heavy engagement into something more entrenched and habitual as people move through early adulthood

Age group (years)	Dependence	Overuse	Non-restraint	Flow of life	Emotional state
15-25	3.361	**3.443**	3.233	3.161	2.729
26-35	**3.544**	3.434	3.222	3.008	2.622
36-45	3.367	3.202	2.97	2.785	2.527
46-55	3.278	2.924	2.778	2.581	2.379
56-65	3.242	2.704	2.605	2.38	2.307
66+	3.149	2.465	2.475	2.234	2.384

Figures are mean scores, lower the better

4 NOT A FULL-BLOWN CRISIS: BUT A SIZEABLE MINORITY SHOWS BROAD DIGITAL STRAIN

Most respondents are not in deep trouble. But nearly 13% show widespread impact across dimensions, not just one isolated issue. That is large enough to make the problem important, but not alarming as yet



The larger point in the poll is that India's digital challenge is becoming less about exposure to technology and more about the terms of that exposure. Devices are no longer just tools of work, leisure or connection. For many users, especially younger adults, they are becoming habits that are difficult to regulate and harder to step away from. The warning sign, then, is not simply how long people stay online, but how deeply digital behaviour is beginning to shape everyday life.

Addressing this requires not withdrawal from technology, but a conscious shift toward healthier digital ecosystems and habits. The most hopeful insight from this study is that the majority of users fall into a "balanced" category not yet clinically severe, but not entirely risk-free either. This is a window of opportunity.

Importantly, stepping away from digital devices is neither practical nor desirable. Technology today underpins how we work, communicate, learn, and participate in society. It enables efficiency, access, and growth in ways that are now fundamental to everyday life. The challenge, therefore, is not to reduce usage blindly, but to reshape how we use it.

We are not yet dealing with a population in crisis but we are standing at the edge of one.

*Centre for Neurodegeneration & Brain Health

WORLD
ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS DAY
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Research for Better Medicines

Role of Modern Treatments in AS

Treatment for Ankylosing Spondylitis has evolved significantly. From traditional anti-inflammatory drugs to advanced biologics, options are more targeted and effective. These therapies help control inflammation, may prevent disease progression. Early and appropriate, personalized care maximizes physical function, reduces pain, and improves overall quality of life. Consistent management is essential for long-term success.

Importance of early treatment of AS

Consulting a specialist early can make a significant difference in Ankylosing Spondylitis outcomes. Delays in seeking care can lead to complications. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts urge individuals not to ignore persistent back pain. Early evaluation allows for timely diagnosis and treatment, helping control early and prevent long-term damage and improve quality of life.

The Importance of Early Diagnosis

Ankylosing Spondylitis often goes undiagnosed for years, leading to unnecessary suffering and complications. Early diagnosis is crucial to slow disease progression, preserve mobility, and prevent long-term damage. Persistent back pain and stiffness, especially in the early morning, should not be ignored. Timely referral to a rheumatologist can make a significant difference in outcomes. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, healthcare professionals highlight the importance of recognizing symptoms early. Simple steps like awareness and education can help individuals seek timely medical attention. Early diagnosis can help slow disease progression, preserve mobility, and improve quality of life. Don't wait—your back deserves attention.

Reducing Diagnostic Delay

Reducing diagnostic delay is crucial in Ankylosing Spondylitis. Many patients wait years for a correct diagnosis. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, awareness campaigns aim to address this issue. Early recognition and referral can improve patient outcomes.

Importance of Medication Adherence

Adhering to prescribed medication is essential in managing Ankylosing Spondylitis effectively. Consistent use of medications can help reduce inflammation, prevent disease progression, and maintain mobility. Patients should avoid skipping doses or stopping treatment without medical advice, as this can lead to worsening symptoms and long-term damage. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts emphasize the importance of following treatment plans closely. Patients should communicate openly with their doctors about any concerns or side effects. Regular monitoring helps ensure the best possible outcomes and quality of life. Taking medication as directed is a simple yet powerful step toward effective disease management.

Delayed Diagnosis Challenges

Delayed diagnosis is a major challenge in Ankylosing Spondylitis. Many patients experience symptoms for years before receiving a correct diagnosis. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts highlight the need for early recognition. Reducing diagnostic delays can prevent complications and improve outcomes.

Staying Positive

A positive mindset can significantly improve the management of Ankylosing Spondylitis. Coping with a chronic condition can be challenging, but emotional resilience helps. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts highlight mental well-being. Staying positive supports better outcomes and quality of life.

Managing Flare-ups

Flare-ups are common in Ankylosing Spondylitis and can worsen symptoms temporarily. Recognizing triggers and following treatment plans—including NSAIDs and targeted biological medications—can help manage these episodes. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts offer guidance on pain control and self-care. Avoiding triggers like stress, poor sleep, and sedentary habits can reduce flare-ups. Consistent exercise and medication adherence are also key. Early intervention during flare-ups can prevent joint damage and stiffness.

Advances in Rheumatology

Advancements in rheumatology have improved the management of Ankylosing Spondylitis. New therapies offer better control of symptoms. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts highlight ongoing research. Continued innovation brings hope for improved treatments and patient care.

Benefits of Early Treatment

Early treatment in Ankylosing Spondylitis can prevent disease progression and complications. Starting therapy at the right time improves long-term outcomes. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts emphasize early intervention. Timely care helps preserve mobility and quality of life.

Role of Imaging in AS

Imaging techniques such as X-rays and MRI play a key role in diagnosing Ankylosing Spondylitis. These tools help detect inflammation and structural changes. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, awareness about diagnostic tools is important. Early imaging can support timely disease control.

AS and Physical Fitness

Maintaining physical fitness is important for individuals with Ankylosing Spondylitis. Regular exercise improves flexibility and strength. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts promote safe routines. Activities like Pilates support overall health and reduce symptoms.

Why Awareness Matters

Don't ignore the Ache. Chronic back pain isn't always "just part of life." This World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, we are urging the public to look closer at persistent low-back pain especially if combined with early morning stiffness.

Early diagnosis can't put a definite goal—it's the first step toward a life without disability, awareness—silence stigma, connects misinformation, and empowers those we patients suffer in silence due to a lack of knowledge. Consult a specialist if the ache in it lasts for a few symptoms.

Living Well with Ankylosing Spondylitis

Lifestyle Changes in AS

Lifestyle modifications are essential in managing Ankylosing Spondylitis. Regular exercise, a balanced diet, and maintaining proper posture can significantly improve symptoms. Avoiding smoking and staying active are also important. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts highlight the role of healthy habits. Small changes can have a lasting impact on disease management and overall well-being.

Adequate of Ankylosing Spondylitis exist this and what active life With proper management, patients can lead fulfilling lives. Treatment includes medications, physiotherapy, and lifestyle modifications. Regular exercise helps maintain flexibility and posture. Patients are encouraged to stay active and avoid prolonged inactivity. Treatment aspects to especially important to develop conditions can affect spinal mobility. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, the focus is on empowering patients with knowledge and resources. Support groups and counseling can play a vital role in coping with the disease. With advancements in medicine, many patients can lead more achievable. Adherence to treatment and regular follow-up are essential. Awareness and education can help patients take control of their condition and maintain a good quality of life.

Recognizing Early Symptoms

Early recognition of Ankylosing Spondylitis can significantly improve patient outcomes. Symptoms often begin gradually, with persistent lower back pain and stiffness, especially in the morning. Visible common back pain, these symptoms may also appear in the neck and other joints. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, awareness campaigns emphasize the importance of seeking medical advice if symptoms last more than three months. Early diagnosis can help prevent long-term damage and maintain mobility. Delayed diagnosis can lead to chronic pain and reduced quality of life. Recognizing these signs early can make a difference. Don't ignore persistent back pain—it could be more than just a backache.

Understanding Ankylosing Spondylitis

Ankylosing Spondylitis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory condition affecting the spine. It often begins in early adulthood, with symptoms including persistent back pain and stiffness. Early diagnosis is crucial to prevent complications like fusion of the spine. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, awareness campaigns highlight the importance of recognizing symptoms early. Treatment options include medications, physiotherapy, and lifestyle adjustments. With proper management, many people with AS can lead active, fulfilling lives. Don't ignore persistent back pain—it could be a sign of something more serious. Spreading awareness can help reduce delays in diagnosis and improve outcomes for those affected.

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Importance of Education

Patient education is vital in managing Ankylosing Spondylitis. Understanding the disease helps patients make informed decisions. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, awareness programs aim to educate patients and healthcare providers. Empowered individuals are better equipped to manage their condition effectively.

AS and Quality of Life

Ankylosing Spondylitis can affect many aspects of life, including mobility, work, and emotional well-being. However, with proper management, patients can maintain a good quality of life. Treatment, exercise, and lifestyle changes all play a role. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts highlight the importance of a holistic approach. Addressing both physical and mental health helps patients live more comfortably and actively.

AS and Daily Activities

Ankylosing Spondylitis can affect daily activities, but proper management can help maintain independence. Simple adjustments and regular exercise can make tasks easier. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts encourage patients to stay active. Maintaining movement and video supports overall health. Acting.

Managing Pain Effectively

Pain management is a key component of Ankylosing Spondylitis care. Medications, physiotherapy, and lifestyle adjustments can help relieve discomfort. Heat therapy and gentle stretching may also provide relief. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts encourage patients to adopt comprehensive pain management strategies. Regular exercise and physical therapy can help maintain flexibility and reduce stiffness. Early intervention can prevent long-term joint damage. Consistent pain management can improve daily functioning and overall well-being.

Awareness Among General Public

Public awareness about Ankylosing Spondylitis remains limited, leading to delayed diagnoses. Many people overlook symptoms like morning back pain. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts emphasize educating communities about inflammatory back pain. Awareness campaigns can help individuals recognize early symptoms and seek timely care. Increased public knowledge can reduce stigma and improve outcomes. Spreading awareness is crucial for early detection and better disease management.

Benefits of Early Treatment

Early treatment in Ankylosing Spondylitis can prevent disease progression and complications. Starting therapy at the right time improves long-term outcomes. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts emphasize early intervention. Timely care helps preserve mobility and quality of life.

Role of Imaging in AS

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Preventing Complications

Preventing complications in Ankylosing Spondylitis requires early treatment and regular monitoring. Uncontrolled inflammation can lead to spinal fusion and reduced mobility. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts promote preventive care. Timely interventions can help maintain function and quality of life.

Importance of Timely Care

Timely medical care is essential in managing Ankylosing Spondylitis. Delay of treatment can lead to complications. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts emphasize early consultation and regular follow-up. Prompt care helps to minimize irreversible of life.

Importance of Screening

Screening for Ankylosing Spondylitis is high-risk individuals can lead to early diagnosis. Identifying symptoms early allows timely interventions. On World Ankylosing Spondylitis Day, experts emphasize awareness screening. Get to detect can improve our long-term outcomes.